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OPINION METER

This week's poll:
Do you agree with the governor's reasons in his decision to declare a state of disaster emergency for the CNMI?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

INSIDE

Texas Flood

Emergency workers rescued dozens of residents after rains deluged more than 400 homes in southern Texas.

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Curfew

Military forces were strengthened Tuesday in the southern Philippines in anticipation of fresh Muslim rebel attacks.

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CPA pays $32,500 fine for airport waste violations. **PAGE 2**
PSS struggling to hire off-island teachers. **PAGE 3**

'CUC owes PMIC $954,000'

CUC crisis causes power plant operator to go beyond budget

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

RELATED NEWS
House OKs CUC to hire 19 guest workers.
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The current power crisis at the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s power plants has resulted in the privately-run Power Plant 4 in Puerto Rico to go beyond its budget for this year, according to a company official.

This came as CUC reportedly owes Power Plant 4 operator, Pacific Marine and Industrial Corp., about $954,000, of which about $570,000 is due this month. PMIC general manager Narciso Pa-

See CUC on Page 4

Low-wage workers cling to dreams of a better life

By CHRIS L. JENKINS
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON— The handtruck is stacked several feet high with the goodies of 21st-century global innovation and commerce: LG cellphones and Canon digital cameras, GameBoys and GameCubes. Abderrafie el-Alami can't afford most of these items, but he handles the packages with care. Calculator, $20.99, top row. MP3 player headset, $24.99, third rung from the bottom.

Later, he'll leave the job at Circuit City for his four-story walkup in Alexandria, Va., a two-bedroom flat he shares with two other men from Morocco, his homeland. It is a neat, spare existence, as well as crowded: His bed sits on the floor next to a plastic nightstand.

Alami, who is not married, has a masters' degree in public administration and will be 40 this year. Back home,

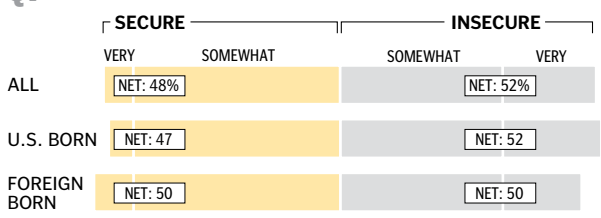
See LOW-WAGE on Page 4

THE WASHINGTON POST-KAISER-HARVARD POLL

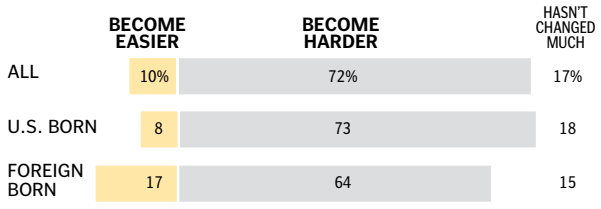
Forging Financial Security in a New Country

Low-wage workers born outside the United States report about the same level of financial security as their U.S.-born counterparts. But they are more apt to say it's become easier for people like them to get ahead, and to believe that their children's financial lives will be more secure than their own.

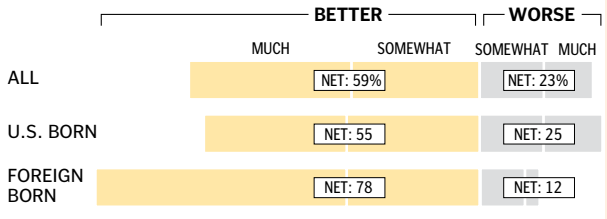
Q: All in all, how financially secure do you feel?



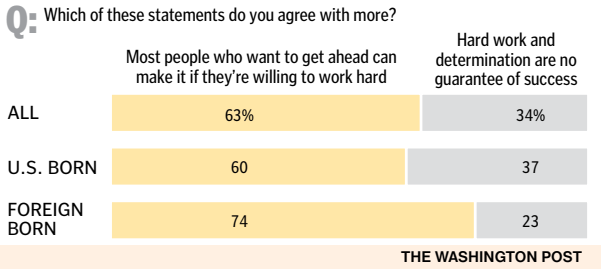
Q: Thinking about the past few years, would you say it has become easier or harder for people like you to get ahead financially, or hasn't that changed much?



Q: When your children are the age you are now, do you think their standard of living will be...than yours is now? (Among those with children)



Q: Which of these statements do you agree with more?



THE WASHINGTON POST

NMC sees large turnout at registration

MATTHEW C. CABRERA/NMC

Students fill up the registration room on the first day, usually the busiest day, of the Northern Marianas College's registration week for the Fall 2008 semester. Registration will continue for the remainder of the week from 9am to 6pm. Late registration will be on Saturday from 9am to 12pm.

By KRISTI EATON
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REPORTER

Nearly 500 students enrolled at Northern Marians College Monday, the first day of registration.

This is approximately half the number of students the college hopes to enroll before classes start on Monday, NMC

See NMC on Page 4

Local

CPA pays $32,500 fine for airport waste violations

By STEFAN SEBASTIAN
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BUSINESS EDITOR

The Commonwealth Ports Authority has reached a settlement with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency over violations of hazardous waste laws at Saipan International Airport after an enforcement effort that spanned nearly three years, yet CPA must still address contamination at the site.

"There's still a lot of work to be done," acting CPA director Lee Cabrera said in an interview Tuesday. "Although we would have preferred the penalty was less, it's still something we can work with. We're also pleased by our working relationship with EPA."

As part of the settlement, CPA paid EPA a fine of $32,500 stemming from the 2005 citation.

At issue are the waste management practices of an airport facility tasked with equipment maintenance, solid waste incineration and waste disposal. The facility handles waste from airlines, the military, private sector businesses and law enforcement, EPA said in a statement.

ON THE NET

http://www.epa.gov/epaoswer/osw/hazwaste.htm
http://www.deq.gov.mp/section.aspx?secID=11

In March 2005, an EPA inspector working with inspectors from the CNMI Division of Environmental Quality found open containers of hazardous waste and used oil in severely corroded and leaking containers at the airport.

The EPA found the facility's treatment, handling, storage, and disposal of motor oil, used motor oil, used oil-based paint, solvents, and other unknown solid and hazardous waste was "an imminent and substantial endangerment to public health and the environment."

In addition, the airport was managing hazardous waste without a permit, EPA said, adding the airport had failed to conduct inspections on the waste containers, nor did it respond to spills, move waste into non-leaking containers or notify EPA on its activities.

In addition to the fine levied against CPA, Cabrera said, the agency's agreement with federal regulators requires it to clean up soil on the site contaminated by fuel and oil spills, improve environmental monitoring at the airport's incinerator and provide added training for staff.

"We are serious about protecting the community, workers and the environment from improper management of hazardous wastes," said Jeff Scott, director of Waste Programs for the EPA Pacific Southwest region. "Facilities face serious fines for not meeting regulatory requirements and must safely dispose of all wastes."

Cabrera noted that soil on the site will have to be treated before it is disposed at the Marpi landfill.

The EPA's hazardous waste rules require facilities to properly store, label and seal hazardous waste containers. Facilities must also have properly trained staff, as improperly stored hazardous waste can potentially spill and pose a risk to workers and the environment. Proper disposal of hazardous waste is required at a permitted disposal site with the proper permits and notifications made to the EPA. ***(with Kristi Eaton)***

Rota, Tinian pushed in Congress

In a letter to Chairwoman Donna Christensen and Ranking Member Luis Fortuño of the Subcommittee on Insular Affairs, CNMI Resident Representative Pete A. Tenorio pointed out the fragile status of Rota and Tinian's economies and how they have been skipped over by visits from congressional delegations.

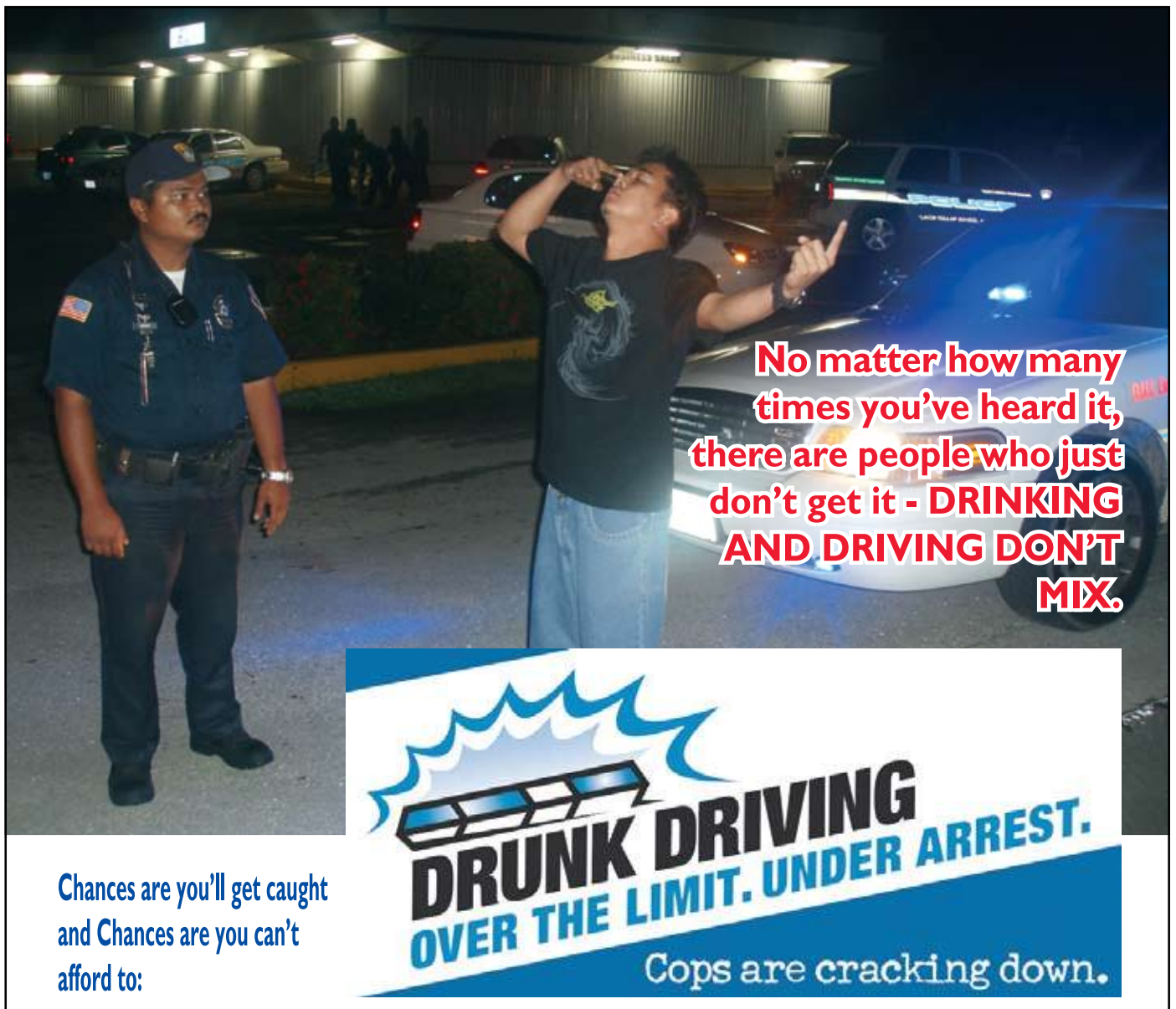
"CNMI's economic problems began prior to the 110th Congress taking up legislation to normalize our immigration, and our economy simply cannot withstand additional negative impacts caused by that normalization process. Saipan should not be the only barometer of economic impact for the implementation of Public Law 110-229. Rather, Rota and Tinian with their unique challenges, including the economic potential of their gaming industries, should be at the forefront when it comes to impact and economic diversification consideration," said Tenorio in his letter.

"I have repeatedly stressed to Congress and the Department of Homeland Security how crucial the Chinese tourist market is to Tinian, and how the insufficiency of essential air service has affected Rota's economy. While there is hope that the military buildup on Guam will bring economic benefit to Tinian and Rota, that whisper of economic promise is years into the future," added Tenorio.

Tenorio expressed his gratitude to Christensen for sending the staff delegation to visit Saipan to follow up on last month's meetings with Homeland Security personnel.

"However, the trip was just too short, they weren't able to meet everyone they needed to, and again, they did not visit Rota or Tinian," said Tenorio. "I have consistently stressed the importance of keeping the House Resources Committee and the Senate Energy & Natural Resources Committee involved in the implementation process of Public Law 110-229."

He said he will also be writing to Chairman Jeff Bingaman (D-NM) and Ranking Member Pete V. Domenici (R-NM) on the Senate side, "as I have learned that they may also be sending a staff delegation to the CNMI later this year." ***(PR)***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Cops are cracking down.
Chances are you'll get caught and Chances are you can't afford to:
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DUI penalty fee $ 500.00
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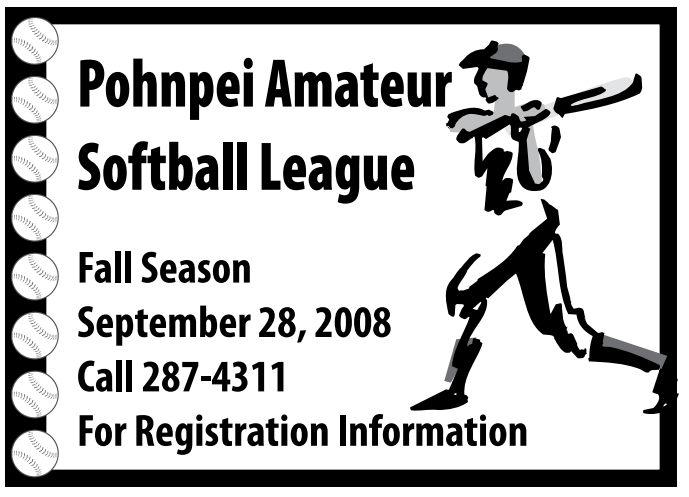

PSS struggling to hire off-island teachers

By KRISTI EATON
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REPORTER

With the current power crisis and economic downturn, the Public School System is having difficulty recruiting teachers from off island, acting PSS Commissioner Ramon Diaz said Tuesday.

Diaz said he expects 20 off-island teachers to be hired this year, compared to 30 to 35 hired the last two years.

Many potential teachers express interest in PSS, but after they conduct research, Diaz said, they realize the CNMI is not for them.

"Off-island hires expect at least reliable utilities," he said. "It's been a big turn off, it really has been."

PSS has actively recruited highly qualified off-island teachers for three years, Diaz said.

There is a process the school system usually goes through in recruiting teachers. They typically send out mass advertisements via the Internet or education conventions. At the conventions they promote the tropical climate and ability to travel to Asia as perks of working in the CNMI. They also promote the ability of loan forgiveness. If the teacher is interested, PSS will give the teacher more information. But lately, Diaz said, once the candidate begins conducting their own research on CNMI, they decide not to pursue the job.

"Ours is one of the very few with palm trees and water. That draws them in," Diaz said. "We start talking to them about the system and they walk away excited. But then they start realizing the daily hardships."

On Monday, a PSS principal informed Diaz that eight potential teacher candidates had changed their mind and were not interested in teaching in the CNMI, he said.

"What I've seen now is, 'I've done the research and I don't think this is the right point in time for me,'" he said of teachers deciding not to pursue work at PSS.

Diaz said he attributes the change of heart to the tough times the Commonwealth is going through.

"It's not good, bad or indifferent," he said. "It's the reality."

But PSS has been able to recruit those teachers that are young or well into their career, Diaz said.

"I think we continue to appeal to those that are adventurous," he added.

PSS has been able to fill some teaching positions with recent graduates from Northern Marianas College, Diaz said. Seventeen NMC students graduated with teaching degrees two years ago and 18 graduated last year, he said.

Fitial nominates three to CPA board

By STEFAN SEBASTIAN
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BUSINESS EDITOR

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial issued three new nominations to the board of the Commonwealth Ports Authority last week after extending for the third time the state of emergency he declared at the agency due to a lack of confirmed board members.

In a series of letters penned Aug. 14, Fitial nominated Edith DLG Cruz, former lawmaker Benigno M. Sablan and Fermin Sakisat to the board, saying each is "qualified and will be an asset on this important board."

Sen. Paterno S. Hocog (R-Rota), chairman of the Committee on Executive Appointments and Government Investigation, which will review the nominations, said in an interview yesterday he had yet to be briefed on the nominees and could not answer questions.

However, Senate president Pete Reyes said that for now the nominations appear acceptable. "I don't see any problem with any of them," he said.

Sablan is a former GOP congressman for precinct 4, according to prior news reports, and a former official with the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council.

Citing professional obligations, Absalon Waki Jr., advertising sales manager for the *Saipan Tribune*, declined a nomination to the board earlier this month, followed by Frank Camacho, an official with Pacific Orient Inc., who turned down the position last week for undisclosed reasons.

The Senate last month voted unanimously to confirm former Tinian senator Manuel Villagomez as a board appointee. Villagomez joined former CPA board chair Joe Lifoifoi, who was asked to rescind his May 16 resignation and stay on the board. The remaining nominees yet to be confirmed are Miriam Seman and Barry Toves.

The new nominations come after Fitial in an executive order last week extended yet again the state of emergency at CPA, pointing to the lack of Senate-confirmed members for the agency's board. The extension will last for 30 days.

'CK Roundhouse memorial will cost $250K'

Former Rep. William S. Torres estimates the rehabilitation and creation of a memorial at the Chalan Kanoa Roundhouse will cost $250,000 to $300,000.

"It could be less but it shouldn't be more," Council adviser Torres said at a meeting Tuesday with members of the First Leadership Park and Memorial Courtyard.

The memorial center would sit on 785 square meters, with an additional 942 square meters requested, in Chalan Kanoa, across from the U.S. Post Office.

According to a preliminary design plan, the open memorial will have a stone granite wall engraved with names of leaders and persons of great influence. Pictures and various items will honor the past. A set of restrooms will also be available to the public.

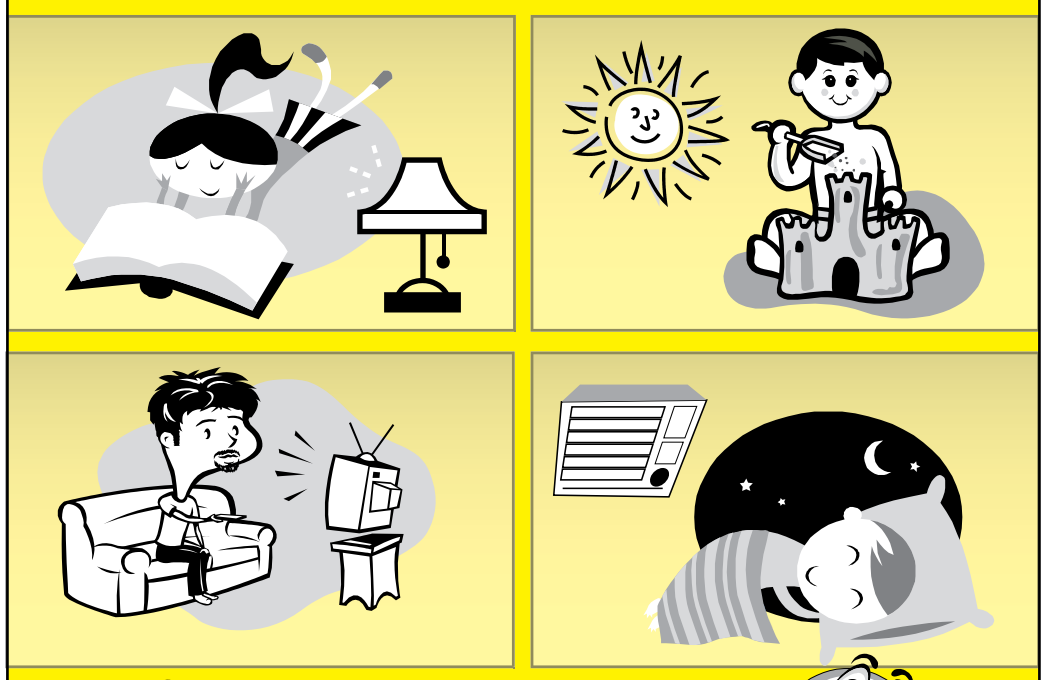
"It's nothing fancy. We already have the basic structure," Torres said, adding it is more about remembering and honoring the people of the past.

"We'll try to make it was aesthetically harmonious as possible," he added.

The Council has set December 2009 as the target date for the completion of the project.

The committee is asking members of the public to nominate appointed and elected Saipan officials who served before the Spanish invasion for the stonewall. The public can contact the Saipan and Northern Islands Municipal Council at 664-2700/1 or contact Saipan Tribune reporter Kristi Eaton at kristi_eaton@saipantribune.com. ***(Kristi Eaton)***

THE HEAT IS ON!



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Fitial nixes proposal for DPL deputy secretary

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial has rejected a bill that proposes to establish a deputy secretary for the Department of Public Lands on Rota, Tinian, and Aguiguan.

Fitial informed Senate President Pete P. Reyes and House Speaker Arnold I. Palacios that he has disapproved Senate Bill 16-16.

The governor said he believes the intent of the bill may already be addressed in Public Law 16-8.

"I believe that certain provisions of the bill may conflict with our Constitution and the efficient administration of public lands under the Executive Branch," the governor said.

According to the legislation, a provision of the NMI Constitution mandates Executive Branch department public services be provided by a resident department head on Tinian and Rota.

The Legislature noted that the declared public policy for the introduction, passage and subsequent enactment of the Public Lands Act of 2006 was to ensure adherence to the mandate of the CNMI Constitution concerning the administration of public lands.

"Notwithstanding the intent, the Public Lands Act of 2006 failed to provide for resident department heads," the bill states. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

ERRATUM

In article "Benedetto stepping down" published in the Aug. 18, 2008, edition of the *Saipan Tribune*, it cited that there are 30,000 foreign workers in the Commonwealth, based on numbers stated in the Interior Department's website. The CNMI Department of Labor clarified that there are fewer than 18,000 at present.

CUC

From Page 1

radela told *Saipan Tribune* that the power crisis at CUC's power plants in Lower Base triggered an increase in the company's variable costs against their operational budget for 2008.

The costs, Paradela said, came in form of more spares being consumed, maintenance cost and additional overtime costs to maintain the nine power engines.

Such increases occurred, he said, because when they prepared their budget last year, they based it on the contracted power supply to CUC of only 10.1 megawatts.

"But because of the power crisis, Power Plant 4 has been supplying CUC 14.7 megawatts or an increase of about 46 percent," the general manager pointed out.

In addition, he said, PMIC's preventive maintenance schedules have been accelerated due to the increase of operating hours.

The PMIC official believes that even if Aggreko International's power engines begin operating in mid-September, Power Plant 4 would still need to run at full capacity due to the condition of Power Plant 1.

"Also, being ourselves operators of Aggreko units, we know that they are not perfect and may have problems from time to time," Paradela added.

Power Plant 4 has reportedly been saving the islands' electric power distribution in the middle of malfunctions and current repairs on power engines at CUC's main power plants.

CUC executive director Antonio Muna had earlier stated that the PMIC-operated Power Plant 4 is a key component in the power distribution system, delivering over 30 percent of the island's power needs.

CUC's contract with PMIC was renewed in 2006 for another 10 years.

NMC

From Page 1

spokesman Mark Mendiola said.

"We're just glad we're getting these students to register and get ready for the new semester," he said.

Because of NMC's current accreditation situation, enrollment numbers have been declining during the last few semesters, he said. Last year the school enrolled about 900 students.

NMC has been on probation since February 2007 and was put on show-cause in February this year because, according to Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, the school did not address previous concerns.

The school has until Oct. 15 to meet the requirements.

"We have our work cut out for us but we look forward to the challenge," he said.

Mendiola said the school is trying to be as open as possible with students and the community about what is being done to alleviate the accreditation problems. For the past few semesters the school has regularly held information sessions where people can learn more about the school.

"We go out into community and invite people to attend and hear testimonials," he said.

Students, staff and faculty share information about their experiences at the school.

Monday's registration is a good sign that students are still interested in exploring what the college has to offer, Mendiola said.

He said the college has been stepping up marketing efforts.

"We have aggressively looked at visiting high school students and counselors to speak with them about accreditation concerns," he said. "We addressed and shared with them what we're going through."

NMC is also targeting the private sector and government agent employees who might like to further their education, he said.

"It's never too late to get an education," he added.

NMC is also actively recruiting students form Tinian and Rota, Mendiola said.

NMC stopped offering credit courses at the Tinian and Rota sites on Oct. 8, 2007. The suspension followed a determination that educational and student services on both campuses are not equal to that on Saipan.

NMC registration continues through Friday from 9am to 6pm. On Saturday registration is from 9am to 12pm.

LOW WAGE

From Page 1

his father is a respected former imam. But a job is a job, and Alami is not too good for the services industry, he thinks. There is no question that even after seven years of low-wage work and cramped living in Northern Virginia, and worrying about making ends meet, this $11.25 an hour job will lead him to what he has come to understand is achieving the "American dream."

"You work hard, you get ahead and you don't stop," he said. "There is a job to be done, and it is a good job because it pays. It doesn't really matter what my education was at home. The opportunity is here. And you take it, and you do it and it will work out."

Alami's complex but unwavering view that this better life is not far from his reach reflects results from a new survey conducted by *The Washington Post*, the Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation and Harvard University that examined the experiences of low-wage workers in the United States. Foreign-born, low-wage workers in the poll said that the economic security they left homes and families to seek in the United States is becoming harder to attain. But their faith in that dream is still strong, as they tend to be more optimistic about the future and more satisfied with their jobs and wages than native-born workers.

Nearly eight in 10 believe that their children will lead even better financial lives, far above the proportion among the native-born that thinks so.

"With many immigrants, there is this sense that they made this hard choice to leave their homelands and they are going to make it under any cost," said Robert Trumble, a professor of management at Virginia Commonwealth University and director of the Virginia Labor Studies Center. "I think there's a tendency to see the positive, even under the most dire circumstances, because so much is at stake: They've left family, family members are counting on them and they want to make this work.

Follow-up interviews with nearly a dozen legal immigrants age 20 to 40 echo this optimism in the face of fragile financial circumstances.

The poll, conducted in June and July, focused on adults aged 18 to 64 who made no more than $27,000 last year while working at least 30 hours a week. Foreign-born workers make up 16 percent of this group, which together accounts for nearly one-quarter of all U.S. adults.

■■■

These positive attitudes about life in what Alami calls "my New World" have long been the psychic backbone that has supported the lives of tens of millions of foreign-born laborers that for generations have made the United States a country of immigrants.

In part, this stems from the poverty and lack of opportunities many immigrants left in their homelands. Nearly seven in 10 of those surveyed in the Post-Kaiser-Harvard poll said they were better off than their parents were at this stage in their lives. Despite Alami's education, he was unable to find work in Morocco's major cities and saw emigrating nearly 4,000 miles as the only chance to help support his entire family.

Recently, however, these immigrants have been plagued by stagnating wages and rising inflation. Only about a third of foreign-born workers in the poll said their wages had gone up in past years; a majority said their incomes were flat or had declined. And they were more apt to report having a harder time paying for life's basics—housing, food, health care and energy costs—than the U.S.-born.

But generally this has not soured the overwhelming belief that to "make it" in their adopted land, all anyone needs is a determined belief that hard work can carry out the dream. About three-quarters of foreign-born workers in the poll believe this.

Sonia Castillo-Hercules, 21, felt the weight of the downturn in the U.S. economy earlier this year. She and her fiance, Noel Portillo, 27, owned a three-bedroom condominium in Alexandria for two years before the $3,000 mortgage payments became too much for them. Increasing gas, energy and food costs tightened their budget, and for months, she said, we had "no money for anything ... clothes for us, for our baby. Nothing."

Now they have put the property up for a short sale—they won't make any money off the exchange—and have moved into a smaller two-bedroom apartment for $1,541 a month. A legal immigrant from El Salvador, Castillo-Hercules works at Inova Fairfax Hospital in the medical records department for $13.25 an hour. These struggles over the past year haven't softened her resolve.

"I saw how my father lived ... it was hard there in El Salvador. I saw how he tried to make ends meet, to support us," she said, cutting plantains in her kitchen and tossing them into a deep fryer. "When I saw that, how he lived, and I see this, the opportunities that I have, we have, I say, there's nothing that I can't do if I just keep at it."

Castillo-Hercules, who received her graduate equivalency diploma last year, said that even as prices rise for many items, she is satisfied with her hourly pay, a common sentiment among many of this low-wage group. Nearly 65 percent of immigrant workers were satisfied with their salary, compared with half of U.S. born low-wage earners. "There's always a chance to make more," she said, "you just have to wait."

■■■

Despite this optimism, many immigrant low-wage workers said progress is slow and that life in this country continues to offer spells of intense insecurity that consume their everyday lives. U.S. born workers were more likely to see their incomes rise in the past few years than immigrant workers, the poll found.

Alami has been here for more than seven years; his Circuit City job is the third service gig he's worked since he arrived at Reagan National Airport in January 2001 with a black carry-on bag and a flimsy windbreaker. He first worked as a busboy at a Holiday Inn for $6.50 an hour—he did it for a year, even though he was sometimes asked to serve alcohol to customers, which is against his Muslim faith.

He then worked as a shoe salesman at Payless for six years, ending at $9.50 an hour. Only recently has he been able to afford the time to further his skills: For the next six months, Alami will begin his 15-hour day with classes in office management offered by Northern Virginia Family Service, a nonprofit in Oakton. He hopes to land a job that could double his salary.

"What choice do I have? This is what it will take," said Alami, who said that weekly trips to the mosque and religious community have been his mainstays. "There is no choice, really. You improve your life or you don't. No matter how little money you have in a particular month or week; no matter how much you have to struggle."

His standard of living has improved in incremental ways: He slept on the couch of a countryman his first four months here, and the trip to work took two buses and a train. In time, he got his own bed in the living room and a green 1989 Suzuki Sidekick to drive. Now he shares a small bedroom; and after saving for six months, he was able to visit Morocco for five weeks.

This is the kind of progress these workers believe will lead to a better standard of living for their children.

Berhanu Shitaye, 40, an Ethiopian immigrant in Fairfax County, Va., has taped wallet-sized pictures of his son, 15, and daughter, 9, on the dashboard of a gray minivan that serves as his taxi. On the seat beside him are a pair of information technology textbooks that he is studying for a class at Strayer University. It's part of his effort to increase his skills so that he and his wife, a nurse, can afford college tuition for the children in a few years.

"Things always move forward in America, as long as you never give up," he said, taking a break at a local Starbucks. "That's why my children will do better."

It has been a difficult odyssey for the family: The couple attended school in Russia, then moved to Germany where they lived in a scruffy flat near Nuremberg. There, their son contracted Hepatitis A from the poor living conditions and they had to fight for his medical care. Finally, they won a chance to come to the United States. They see hope for the next generation, Shitaye said, because moving here has been a step up from the struggles in Ethiopia and Europe.

"Look around ... things are hard, yes," he said as he gestured to his cab, which brings him about $90 a day after he pays his company's weekly fees. "And we have suffered in our own way, my family. But to think that life will not be better for your children ... you can't think that way. It will be because you will make it that way."

Polling director Jon Cohen and assistant polling analyst Kyle Dropp contributed to this report.

Jurisdiction issue dogs Beach Road pathway lights

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Funding problems, together with unclear rules on who has actual jurisdiction over the site, have left pathway lights along Beach Road under a shadow of darkness for several years now.

The office of the Division of Parks and Recreation said it has been receiving numerous calls asking about this issue.

But division director Anthony Benavente said another agency is actually in charge of repairing and maintaining the lights, referring to the Technical Service Division of the Department of Public Works as the one that should be held responsible.

Benavente explained that his division is only in charge of cutting grasses or cleaning up the parks and recreation areas but not putting up the infrastructure.

However, TSD director Joseph M. Inos Jr. explained that they have no jurisdiction over the management of the pathway lights as it is the responsibility of the Division of Parks and Recreation.

Inos said it is not the duty of the Technical Service Division to ask for a budget from the Legislature for this purpose and that they will only come into the picture if there is a request for such repair.

Once the request is made, the papers are ready and the funding is ready, he said, they can then purchase the materials and the repair or installation of such lights will start.

This is usually done via a contract with the private sector, he said, but if the budget is not enough, the DPW crew will accomplish the project.

Inos, who had just been promoted director after five years with the Technical Service Division, recalled that it was about between two to three years ago that some of the lights were repaired but only on some portions of Beach Road.

He even recalled that about a year ago, copper wires that connect the pathway lights were stolen, which makes him believe that parks and recreation sites like the Beach Road pathway need supervision.

Saipan Mayor Juan Tudela said his office has nothing to do with this problem at all because it is solely the responsibility of the Commonwealth government.

At least two individuals seen walking along the Beach Road pathway yesterday expressed apprehension that the darkness at the pathway could result in crimes happening in the area.

However, the two, who both asked not to be identified, also understood that the government is currently in crisis and may not have the money to repair the lights.

House OKs bill for autonomous hospital, DPH

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The House has unanimously approved a bill that seeks to establish a self-governing entity, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., which will govern an autonomous Commonwealth Health Center.

Introduced by Rep. Heinz S. Hofschneider, House Bill 16-9 passed the House's final reading with a 16-0 vote during Monday's session. The bill now goes to the Senate.

House Committee on Health, Education, and Welfare chair Rep. Ralph DLG. Torres told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that his committee, Hofschneider, and Public Health Secretary Joseph Kevin Villagomez have been working closely to see so it that there would be a smooth transition period when the legislation becomes law.

"It [creation of the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.] is very important. We could be eligible for more federal funding because it's a corporation rather than how it is structured now. We don't have a board right now for DPH. So with this [bill] it creates a board," the lawmaker said.

The committee conducted a lot of public hearings on the proposed measure on Rota, Tinian, and in some villages on Saipan.

"We took all the comments and recommendations from the respective departments and whoever that came in gave their testimony," Torres said.

During committee meeting, members consolidated all the comments and came out with solutions and recommendations, he added.

"The standing committee pushed for its passage. So yesterday, we passed this. Sixteen members present all voted for it," Torres said.

Resident Rep. Pete A. Tenorio earlier cautioned the Legislature about the autonomy being proposed under the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.

Tenorio said the bill should be clearer about who would be ultimately responsible for running the hospital once it is transformed into a separate, self-governing entity.

The legislation states that healthcare services under the Department of Public Health are not operating as effectively as demanded by consumers.

"Several factors are responsible, including a changing environment for public healthcare financing, stagnant public funding, and difficulties in procurement, recruiting and staffing," the bill states.

Hofschneider said in the legislation that the establishment of an advisory body representative of the community would ensure that healthcare management receives the advice it needs to guide the corporation toward increased financial self-sufficiency.

The bill would allow the corporation to assume the functions and duties of the Commonwealth Health Center; the clinics including Rota Health Center, Tinian Health Center, the Women's Clinic, and the Children's Clinic; and the Community Guidance Center.

A chief executive officer appointed by the governor will be the head of the corporation for a term of four years.

It would have a seven-member board of trustees that the chief operating officer may call upon from time to time for advice and assistance.

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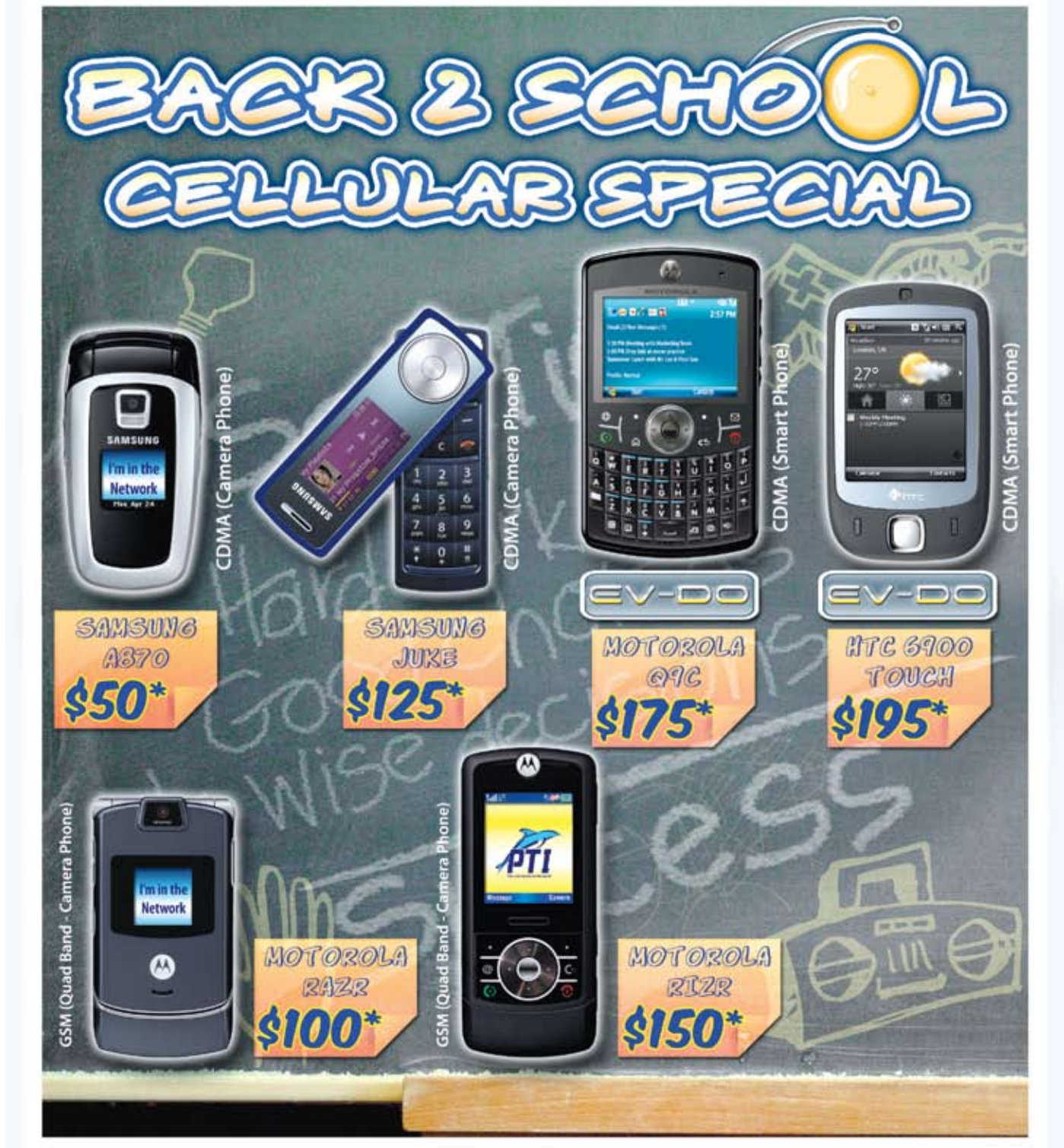

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Ada takes over as acting Commerce chief

By STEFAN SEBASTIAN
stefan_sebastian@saipantribune.com
BUSINESS EDITOR

Gov. Benigno Fitial has nominated Michael Ada to serve as Commerce secretary after his predecessor and former boss James Santos resigned last week ahead of his pending trial on federal fraud and theft charges.

Previously Commerce's deputy secretary, Ada took the post as its acting chief Tuesday after returning from a trip to Seattle, Washington, where he presented a grant proposal to the federal Economic Development Administration.

The governor's spokesman, Charles Reyes, on the same day confirmed Fitial has sent a letter to the Senate nominating Ada to retain his new job permanently. Senate lawmakers must choose whether to approve the nomination.

Ada—once a corporate trainer for AT&T—spent the first day in his new post in conferences with the directors of Commerce's various divisions, he said during an interview, and is eyeing some key departmental changes such as realigning his staff to improve efficiency. Santos also spoke with him by phone yesterday to offer words of encouragement, he added.

"One of the biggest challenges for me is going to be getting my hands around all the different departments within Commerce and all their specific needs," said Ada, who joined Commerce 10 months ago. "There are some things I'd like to do differently to make sure the department is doing the best with the people we have."

A key project on Ada's agenda now is the $110,000 grant proposal he presented in Seattle for the drafting of a comprehensive CNMI economic development plan focused on local infrastructure needs, he said.

Ada is also rallying support for an Aug. 28 business forum at the World Resort. The event will focus on, among other issues, improving the local government's relationship with the private sector and the business community's concerns surrounding the pending federal takeover of the CNMI's immigration and foreign labor rules.

Appointed as Commerce secretary in 2006, Santos is now facing charges of wire fraud, conspiracy and theft involving federal funds. He resigned voluntarily last week after taking a leave of absence.

Federal authorities say Santos, his wife Joaquina, former Commonwealth Utilities Corp. executive director Anthony Guerrero and Lt. Gov. Timothy Villagomez engaged in a scheme to bilk CUC out of hundreds of thousands through needless chemical purchases.

Guerrero has pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy in a deal with federal prosecutors and could testify when the case reaches a jury trial in October. The Santoses and Villagomez have pleaded not guilty.

Bill setting delegate polls procedures passes House

The House of Representatives has passed a bill that establishes procedures for the election of a CNMI delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives.

With a majority 16-3 vote, the House approved House Bill 16-112. Reps. Heinz Hofschneider, Tina Sablan, and Oscar Babauta voted against the bill during Monday's session.

The bill calls for the election of delegate at the special election on Nov. 4, 2008, and at such elections every two years thereafter.

Introduced by Rep. Diego T. Benavente and two other lawmakers, the legislation proposes that a term of the delegate shall commence on Jan. 3 following the date of election.

Under the proposed measure, the governor shall reprogram $60,000 from the Office of the Resident Representative's account to the Commonwealth Election Commission for the first delegate election.

The Election Commission would be given expenditure authority over the reprogrammed funds. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

'Officials' relatives are all over offices in NMI'

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Assuring there is no nepotism and favoritism in his office, Saipan Mayor Juan B. Tudela said six of his employees voluntarily resigned either due to sickness or to leave the island to be with their families.

Tudela also explained that insufficient funding left them with no recourse but to cut its rank-and-file as per order from the Office of the Governor.

"Why would some people accuse us of nepotism and favoritism when relatives of officials in certain government offices are common—in the Governor's Office, in the Legislature, and in other agencies," said Tudela.

The mayor expressed surprised that the six who have resigned did not say anything against him in their resignation letters, yet suddenly some people are trying to create a controversy out of this.

"I would have been glad if they went out to express appreciation to me for giving them an opportunity to work with the Mayor's Office, instead of accusing me of things that doesn't happen. Now, we ended up absorbing their workload," said Tudela.

Those who resigned were youth coordinator Olinka Chaudhry, executive secretary Florence Camacho Stephen, administrative assistant Liza DeLeon Guerrero, Mike Somorang, Nolin Cruz and Donald Mendiola from the human resources office.

Tudela said Guerrero and Cruz, whose contracts ended in March 30, resigned because they are going off-island.

One of them, he said, is also going to the United States to stay with her mother and another is going home because his father is sick while another could not continue working because he is sick.

The Mayor is taking his time to identify those who are accusing him of nepotism and favoritism.

"I think that these people are the ones who are coming late everyday to the office and just wait for their salaries to come," he said.

The Mayor said he has told all his employees to "shape-up or ship-out" and that it is up to them to understand that.

"Most of the people working in this office are good and that's what I know from the start," he said.

The Mayor's office, reports say, is at present has 26 employees, including some of close relatives.

A complaint against the mayor for "unfair practices" had been lodged with the Office of the Public Auditor and the Attorney General's Office by Taotao Tano president Gregorio Cruz Jr.

NMC alumni meeting set

There will be a general membership meeting of all Northern Marianas College alumni at the Hard Rock Café Private Room on Aug. 21, 2008 (Thursday) at 6:30pm. All NMC alumni are invited to attend.

"We will be signing up alumni, selecting the official NMC alumni logo, presenting alumni ID card benefits, and more.

"Your attendance will be greatly appreciated in this historic revitalization of the NMC Alumni Association. Come and get re-acquainted with former classmates. Let's give back to our community!" ***(PR)***

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Registration for New Students:	September 4-5 , 2008	ThF	10:00-06:00 PM	ABE
Late Registration:	September 8-9, 2008	MT	08:00-05:00 PM	ABE
CASAS Appraisal Test	September 10-11, 2008	WTh	09:00-10:00 AM	K-1
			01:00-02:00 PM	K-1
			05:00-06:00 PM	K-1
CASAS Pre-Test	September 12 & 15, 2008	FM	09:00-10:30 AM	K-1
			01:00-02:30 PM	K-1
			05:00-06:30 PM	K-1
Student Orientation:	September 16, 2008	T	05:00-06:30 PM	D-1
CASAS Make-Up Tests	September 16, 2008	T	08:00-05:00 PM	K-1
Add/Drop for Students:	September 17-26, 2008		08:00-05:00 PM	ABE

First Day of Instruction:	MWF Classes	September 17, 2008 (Wednesday)
	TTh Classes	September 18, 2008 (Thursday)
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In The Adoption of	)	FCD AD CIVIL
Ying Wang	)	ACTION
	)	NO. 07-0474
By:	)	
Juan Reyes Duenas	)	NOTICE OF
Defendant.	)	HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on September 11, 2008, at 1:30 p.m. in Courtroom 205A, before Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo.

Bernadita A. Sablan
Clerk of Court

/s/ By: Deputy Clerk of Court

House OKs CUC to hire 19 guest workers

By 16-0 vote, lawmakers agree alien workers needed to maintain power plants

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The House unanimously agreed to let the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. hire 12 alien workers and renew the contracts of seven others to address the severe manpower shortage at CUC's power generation division.

The bill, introduced by Vice Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero, originally sought to hire 12 guest workers but Rep. Edward T. Salas offered an amendment on the floor to change it to 19 during the session Monday afternoon.

With a 16-0 vote, the legislation goes to the Senate. Reps. Ray N. Yumul, Joseph Reyes, Rosemond Santos, and Edwin Aldan were absent.

In an interview with *Saipan Tribune* yesterday, Salas said some of them are concerned that the 12 new slots are not enough.

Salas said he originally proposed 24, but there were some discussions so they compromised and agreed to have 19 instead.

"The reason for 19 is because there are seven that are still currently employed [whose contracts] are expiring. When that seven expire, if you are allowed 12 that would mean you can get only five more," he explained.

Salas said all of them agreed the CNMI doesn't have local resources in terms of technicians and people who are experts in generators.

"We understand that it is really an immediate need," he added. "So we decided to…allow CUC to hire those people off island, including the seven renewals."

The lawmaker said the hiring would either be through manpower services or direct hire.

Rep. Stanley T. Torres said the hiring of nonresident workers is needed to support the maintenance and overhauling of power engines at Power Plants in Lower Base.

Torres said there are currently seven employees, including engineers and technical people, who are nonresidents.

He said CUC executive director Tony Muña asked that they provide 12 more guest workers who will assist CUC for another two years.

Torres said Muña promised that if these 12 are hired, there should be a training program for local residents to take these alien workers' place.

Deleon Guerrero stated in the bill that extending the exemption for hiring alien workers within the government is necessary to ensure the delivery of uninterrupted power, water, and wastewater services to the CNMI.

Under the legislation, the 12 additional workers would fill technical and professional positions at CUC and extend such exemption to year 2010.

Tudela advises residents to be patient

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Saipan Mayor Juan Tudela advises all residents to do their share in minimizing the effects of the power crises.

"We just have to be patient. My advice is that whatever we have right now, we have to take it because CUC [Commonwealth Utilities Corp.] is working very hard to accommodate all of us," Tudela said.

He said that people must make sure that they are aware with the schedule of power interruptions and what village is affected at a certain period of time.

"People must make sure that they do not buy a lot of food and store in their refrigerators so that they won't have a problem later when the power is off in their area," Tudela said.

He said there are some areas that are experiencing about three to six hours and some reports of even half a day of power interruptions.

Basing on media reports, Tudela said CUC is poised to solve the power crisis within a month.

"We hope that the crisis will be over by the end of September," he said.

He said the Governor is doing everything and prioritizing all efforts to end the power crisis immediately.

Gov. Benigno Fitial earlier declared a state of disaster emergency in the CNMI because the main power plant might explode anytime and may cause a lot of damage.

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REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP 08-025

The Public School System (PSS) is soliciting competitive sealed bids for the **Purchase and Delivery of Mobility Equipped Vans.** Detailed information on the Scope of Work is available at the PSS Procurement & Supply Office located on the 3rd floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950.

All bids shall be in a sealed envelope face marked "RFP #08-025" containing one (1) original and four (4) copies and shall be submitted to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office no later than September 16, 2008 at 10:00 a.m. Responsibility determination documents shall be placed in a separate envelope marked "RFP #08-025, CONFIDENTIAL - Responsibility Determination" (one (1)-original and four (4)-copy). Any bid after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstance.

Technical questions shall be in writing and addressed to Mr. Juan D. Babauta, Acting Procurement & Supply Officer, via fax # (670) 664-3791. Alternatively, technical questions may be e-mailed to the following address: babautajd@pss.cnmi.mp.

General inquiries may be directed to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office at telephone numbers 237-3062 / 3035.

The Public School System reserves the right to award single or multiple awards or to reject any or all bids, in whole or in part, if to do so is in the best interest of the Public School System.

All bids shall become the property of the Public School System.

/S/ Ramon DLG. Diaz, Jr.
Acting, Commissioner of Education

/S/ Juan D. Babauta
Acting P & S Officer

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MELL SINGAPORE	013E	8/9 Sat	8/7 Thu	8/7 Thu	7/29 Tue	8/2 Sat	8/15 Fri	8/11 Mon	8/10 Sun	8/5 Tue	7/27 Sun	8/11 Mon	8/15 Fri	8/16 Sat	8/19 Tue
STADT HAMBURG	021E	8/16 Sat	8/14 Thu	8/14 Thu	8/5 Tue	8/9 Sat	8/22 Fri	8/18 Mon	8/17 Sun	8/12 Tue	8/3 Sun	8/18 Mon	8/22 Fri	8/23 Sat	8/26 Tue
MELL SENOKO	009E	8/23 Sat	8/21 Thu	8/21 Thu	8/12 Tue	8/16 Sat	8/29 Fri	8/25 Mon	8/24 Sun	8/19 Tue	8/10 Sun	8/25 Mon	8/29 Fri	8/30 Sat	9/2 Tue
MELL SINGAPORE	014E	8/30 Sat	8/28 Thu	8/28 Thu	8/19 Tue	8/23 Sat	9/5 Fri	9/1 Mon	8/31 Sun	8/26 Tue	8/17 Sun	9/1 Mon	9/5 Fri	9/6 Sat	9/9 Tue
STADT HAMBURG	022E	9/6 Sat	9/4 Thu	9/4 Thu	8/26 Tue	8/30 Sat	9/12 Fri	9/8 Mon	9/7 Sun	9/2 Tue	8/24 Sun	9/8 Mon	9/12 Fri	9/13 Sat	9/16 Tue
MELL SENOKO	010E	9/13 Sat	9/11 Thu	9/11 Thu	9/2 Tue	9/6 Sat	9/19 Fri	9/15 Mon	9/14 Sun	9/9 Tue	8/31 Sun	9/15 Mon	9/19 Fri	9/20 Sat	9/23 Tue

Inbound from Asia	Voyage No.	ETA Guam	ETD Guam	ETA Saipan	ETA Yap	ETA Koror	ETA GenSan	ETA Davao	ETA Cebu	ETA Hongkong	ETA Kaoshiung	ETA Busan	ETA Yokohama	ETA Manila	ETA Singapore
MELL SINGAPORE	013E	8/23 Sat	8/24 Sun	8/24 Sun	SKIP	8/27 Wed	8/29 Fri	8/30 Sat	9/2 Tue	9/5 Fri	9/6 Sat	9/11 Thu	9/9 Tue	9/7 Sun	9/10 Wed
STADT HAMBURG	021E	8/30 Sat	8/31 Sun	8/31 Sun	9/2 Tue	9/3 Wed	9/5 Fri	9/6 Sat	9/9 Tue	9/12 Fri	9/13 Sat	9/18 Thu	9/16 Tue	9/14 Sun	9/17 Wed
MELL SENOKO	009E	9/6 Sat	9/7 Sun	9/7 Sun	SKIP	9/10 Wed	9/12 Fri	9/13 Sat	9/16 Tue	9/19 Fri	9/20 Sat	9/25 Thu	9/23 Tue	9/21 Sun	9/24 Wed
MELL SINGAPORE	014E	9/13 Sat	9/14 Sun	9/14 Sun	9/16 Tue	9/17 Wed	9/19 Fri	9/20 Sat	9/23 Tue	9/26 Fri	9/27 Sat	10/2 Thu	9/30 Tue	9/28 Sun	10/1 Wed
STADT HAMBURG	022E	9/20 Sat	9/21 Sun	9/21 Sun	SKIP	9/24 Wed	9/26 Fri	9/27 Sat	9/30 Tue	10/3 Fri	10/4 Sat	10/9 Thu	10/7 Tue	10/5 Sun	10/8 Wed
MELL SENOKO	010E	9/27 Sat	9/28 Sun	9/28 Sun	9/30 Tue	10/1 Wed	10/3 Fri	10/4 Sat	10/7 Tue	10/10 Fri	10/11 Sat	10/16 Thu	10/14 Tue	10/12 Sun	10/15 Wed

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Red flag up on seven beach sites

The Division of Environmental Quality has raised the red flag on five beaches on Saipan and two beaches on Tinian and is warning the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of these locations for the next 48 hours or until otherwise notified.

On Saipan, the affected beaches are Jeffries Beach, Marine Beach, Tank Beach, Hidden Beach, and Unai Dangkulo. On Tinian, red flags are up at Leprosarium Beach I and the harbor.

DEQ said that samples collected from these locations were found to contain excessive concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria (enterococci) that exceeded the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards. These bacteria can indicate the presence of human and animal waste in the water.

However, studies have shown that storm water runoff in tropical environments may also contain these bacteria from the natural environment, which may not be directly associated with public health concerns.

DEQ analyzed 12 samples of Saipan east and south recreational beaches this week. On Tinian, samples of marine recreational and storm drainage water were taken from 10 locations.

DEQ welcomes all inquiries as to the quality of the beach water. The public is encouraged to contact DEQ at 664-8500 with any questions concerning this matter. ***(DEQ)***

Four-hour outage on Middle Road Friday

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. has scheduled a four-hour power outage on Friday, Aug. 22, affecting a large portion of Middle Road.

According to CUC executive director Antonio Muña, the purpose of the outage is to replace the defective air break system in Feeder 3 by the entrance of Upper Gualo Rai.

The outage, expected to last from 8am to 12pm, is required for the safety line crew, he said.

The following areas will be affected: Customers from Quartermaster Road to Msgr. Guerrero, Pale Arnold Road, Upper China Town, Falipe, Taro Sue, Upper Gualo Rai, and Lower Gualo Rai area.

The outage is on top of the regular load shedding schedule. ***(PR)***

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 12, the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, through its Chairwoman of the Board, is hereby giving notice that a Special Meeting of the Board will be held on Friday, August 22, 2008, at 10:00 a.m. at the NMHC Conference Room in Garapan, Saipan. The public is welcome to submit written or oral comments regarding the agenda below. Individuals interested in attending the meeting and needing special accommodations are requested to contact NMHC in advance.

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
A. Call to Order
B. Roll Call

II. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS

IV. MORTGAGE CREDIT PROGRAMS
A. Status of Participating Banks
1. BankPacific
2. Bank of Hawaii
B. Loan Processing Procedures
C. Other Loan Matters

V. EXECUTIVE SESSION

VI. OTHER MATTERS

XI. ADJOURNMENT

NOTE: Pursuant to PL 8-41, Section 13(6) and (7), some discussion of the above may be under Executive Session.

MERCED (MARCIE) M. TOMOKANE
Vice Chairwoman of the Board

REVISED
MARIANAS PUBLIC LAND TRUST
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

NOTICE OF REGULAR MEETING

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, The Open Government Act of 1992, the Marianas Public Land Trust have scheduled a Board of Trustees Regular Meeting to be held on **Thursday, August 21, 2008 beginning at 6:00 PM on the 1st Floor of the Morgen Building, Suite #107; Saipan, MP.**

The following agenda is hereby established:

I PRELIMINARIES
- Call to Order
- Roll Call
- Adoption of Agenda
- Adoption of Minutes

II CONSULTANT REPORTS
- Investment Consultant Reports
  - Flash Reports – July 2008
  - APAFS Conference
- Loan Administrator Reports
- Legal Counsel Reports*
  - Home Loan Program Matters
  - APLE 501
- Board Consultant Reports
  - Financial Statements – June 2008

III CHAIRMAN'S REPORT
- Office Space Matters

IV OLD BUSINESS
- Tinian Public Market

V NEW BUSINESS
- Employment/Independent Contracts
- FY 2009-2010 Independent Audit RFP
- IFEBP: International & Emerging Markets

VI EXECUTIVE SESSION
At anytime during this scheduled meeting, the Board of Trustees may be required to enter into Executive Session to discuss matters deemed privileged and confidential.

VII MISCELLANEOUS

VIII ADJOURNMENT

* It is anticipated that the following matters will be discussed under Executive Session in its entirety.

In accordance with Public Law 8-41, additional agenda items may be added to the above listing only by the recorded vote of the majority of the trustee governing body.

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written and oral testimony on the above agenda items.

/s/ Alvaro A. Santos
Chairman, Board of Trustees

ANNOUNCEMENT

TimePlus Payroll will be holding a very interesting orientation and demo on Thursday, August 21, 2008 at Sandcastle, Hyatt Regency.

You can choose to attend between:

AM session: 10am to 11am
PM session: 2pm to 3pm

RSVP: jdcs@ebsguam.com or call 234-3278

Hope to see you there.

Time-Plus is a Federally Registered Trademark of Time+Plus, Inc. Atlanta, GA
Setting the Standard of Excellence in Automated Payroll & Timekeeping Services

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

August 20, 1999

Interior to probe on-job campaign
The Interior Department's inspector general and special counsel are being called in to investigate whether former key insular affairs officials linked to on-job campaign against House Republicans broke the law, the Washington Times reported Wednesday. The Times also disclosed that Allen P. Stayman, former director of OIA which oversees US territories, including the Northern Marianas, plotted to oust the CNMI's Democratic governor, Froilan Tenorio, during the 1997 campaign.

Shell follows suit; hikes fuel prices
As expected, Shell Marianas yesterday increased its fuel price by 5 to 6 cents per gallon, a day after Mobil Marianas started its price adjustments. Shell stations on Saipan are now selling premium unleaded gas at $2.059 per gallon, regular unleaded at $1.989, and diesel fuel at $1.829. However, Shell card fuel adjustment will take effect on Aug. 23, 1999.

Teno cautions against lowering NMC tuition
A proposal to reduce tuition costs at the Northern Marianas College should be carefully studied as it might "jeopardize" operations of the island's sole higher learning institution, Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio said yesterday. He said NMC has to provide information on potential financial impact of such a plan to see what his administration can do to assist students who might be forced to drop out in view of cutback in government educational assistance.

August 20, 2001

New counting machines ensure accuracy
The CNMI Commission on Election is now equipped with a state-of-the-art tabulating machines that ensure almost 100 percent accuracy in the counting of votes. The new machines will be used in counting the votes cast in the November 3 elections. The newly-procured tabulation machines have the capability to read 300 ballots per minute and has one out of a million chance margin of error, Election Software and System Corporation official Jason Barnett said.

Monument for local war heroes proposed
A Memorial Court of Honor that would honor the 50 Chamorro and Carolinian members of the Marianas Marine Corps Scouts who bravely served the US Marines in 1994 may soon rise at the Camp Susupe Park. That is, if the US Secretary of Defense agrees to provide the funds for the construction of the memorial.

Bullet proof vests but no cars for Tinian policemen
There is good news and bad news from the police department on Tinian. The good news is that all the island's policemen are now equipped with bullet-proof vests, disclosed police colonel Pete Cruz, Tinian's Department of Public Safety director. But these policemen may have to patrol on foot, if the department's remaining two running police vehicles suffer a break down.

August 20, 2002

Bankruptcies seen if user's fee increase goes through
The president of Advance Textile Corp. disclosed that his company has filed for bankruptcy and that other garment manufacturers on island would be joining him in the Federal Bankruptcy Court if the Legislature pushes through with increasing the user's fee to 5 percent. Responding to Rep. Stanley T. Torres's question why his firm is still not bankrupt after claiming that his company has been losing money, Paul Zak replied that he is-his firm filed for Chapter 11 protection at the Federal Bankruptcy Court on March 11 this year.

Funding woes stop PCB soil treatment
The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers temporarily stopped the treatment of PCB-laced soil in Tanapag due to fund shortage, leaving the contractors waiting until the Corps obtains additional money for the project through appropriations for the next fiscal year. John Trela, project manager of the Army Corps' contractor, the Environmental Chemical Corporation, told the Saipan Tribune they would remain on stand-by until the Corps directs them to resume treatment operations.

Bamba joins his four brothers in US Army

Private First Class Daniel Josh Bamba recently graduated from Basic Combat Training in Fort Sill, Oklahoma.

Bamba enlisted as a field artillery cannon crew member in Junction City, Kansas in May 2008, upon graduating from high school.

Bamba is the fifth son of Margarita Bamba and the late David B. Bamba to join the military. His older brothers, Sgt. David F. Bamba, is currently deployed to Afghanistan with the Guam National Guard; SFC John A. Bamba is a drill sergeant in Fort Sill, Oklahoma with Fox Battery 1/19th FA; PFC Gregory M. Bamba just graduated from AIT in Fort Lee, Virginia and will be stationed in Fort Bragg, North Carolina; Chris R. Bamba was also an enlisted soldier in the Army from 1998-2000.

Their father, the late David B. Bamba of Mongmong, Guam, retired from the Army as an SFC in 1995. He served in the Gulf War.

Daniel Josh Bamba resides in Junction City with his mother, Margarita, and sister, Mariette Bamba. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Margarita Bamba poses with her sons, PFC Greg Bamba, PFC Daniel Bamba, SFC John Bamba and Chris Bamba. Not in picture is SGT David Bamba, who is deployed in Afghanistan with the Guam National Guard.

Litigator Cole rejoins Carlsmith Ball

HONOLULU—Carlsmith Ball LLP announced yesterday that Christopher J. Cole has rejoined the firm as partner in the Honolulu office effective July 14, 2008. Cole specializes in the areas of civil litigation, with an emphasis in labor and employment law, real estate litigation, professional liability, environmental litigation and complex commercial litigation.

ON THE NET
www.Carlsmith.com.

"We are pleased to welcome Chris back to our firm," said Chair Karl Kobayashi. "He is a well-respected attorney, and brings with him a wealth of knowledge and experience in litigation to better serve our clients' growing needs."

Cole first joined Carlsmith Ball as a summer clerk in 1991 when the firm was known as Carlsmith Ball Wichman Murray Case & Ichiki. Upon receiving his law degree, Cole became an associate in its labor and employment section. In 1994, Cole left to join McCorriston Miller Mukai MacKinnon, where he later became a partner and member of the law firm's hiring committee.

Cole

"I am delighted to return to Carlsmith Ball as an integral part of the firm's high caliber litigation practice," said Cole. "I look forward to working with some familiar faces, as well as the new colleagues who have since joined the firm."

Professionally, Cole is a member of the American Bar Association and Hawaii State Bar Association. He is admitted to practice before all Hawaii courts, U.S. District Court of Hawaii, U.S. Court of Appeals 9th Circuit and U.S. Tax Court.

Cole received his bachelor's degree from the University of California at Los Angeles, where he lettered in varsity rowing and double-majored in English Literature and History, and earned his juris doctor degree from the University of California, Hastings College of the Law in 1992.

In his spare time, Cole stays active by coaching youth flag football and playing Lawyers League basketball. He is also an avid waterman.

A native of Haleiwa, Hawaii, Cole currently resides in Honolulu with his wife, Angela, and their three children.

Carlsmith Ball LLP is a leading law firm in the Pacific region with close to 100 lawyers in eight offices in Saipan, Guam, Honolulu, Kapolei, Maui, Kona, Hilo and Los Angeles. ***(PR)***

Shell Marianas

Marianas Acquisition Corporation, dba Shell Marianas, is seeking a conscientious and reliable individual to fill the position of

Terminal Operator

This position is responsible for working to support the Depot Manager in ensuring compliance with the health, safety, environmental and operational guidelines of the terminal, carrying out the daily terminal operations to include receiving, handling and storing of products, and ensuring the needs of customers are met.

The successful candidate will have positive interpersonal skills, a desire to develop a career with an established organization, and the ability to work diligently to achieve goals. Qualifications include intermediate computer skills, excellent organizational and communication abilities, and some experience in the petroleum industry.

Shell Marianas offers the following compensation and benefits package:

Competitive wages
Medical/Dental insurance
Group Life Insurance
Group Long Term Disability Insurance
Paid Vacation Leave
Paid Sick Leave
Paid Holidays
Employee Discounts
401k Retirement Plan

Interested individuals who meet the above requirements should submit resumes no later than September 1, 2008 to:

Jeff Boyer
Country Chair Representative
Marianas Acquisition Corporation, dba Shell Marianas
Puerto Rico Terminal Office
Saipan MP 96950

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION, PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM
P.O. BOX 501370 CK, SAIPAN, MP 96950
HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
PROMOTIONAL & OPEN COMPETITIVE EXAMINATION ANNOUNCEMENT

It is the policy of the Board of Education, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, that the Public School Personnel System shall be applied and administered according to the principles of equal employment opportunity as defined by the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Public Law 6 - 10, regardless of age, race, sex, religion, political affiliation or belief, marital status, handicap or place of origin. Applicants for this position must be a U.S. Citizen or be eligible and authorized to work in the U.S., including the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Announcement No: **PSS-2008-054**
Position Title: **SCHOOL PRINCIPAL I-II**
Pay Level/Step: **UNGRADED**
Opening Date: **August 7, 2008**
Location: PSS – **SAIPAN / TINIAN / ROTA**
Application & Employment Type: **Non-Certified**
Per Annum Salary: **$50,000.00-$60,000.00**
Closing Date: **August 22, 2008**
Benefits: Salary Commensurate with qualifications and experience, plus excellent benefits (including Life Insurance, Retirement Benefits, and Paid Leave/Holidays
Minimum Requirements:
Master's Degree with a Major in Educational Administration or related field.
Minimum of 6 years experience; 3 years teaching experience and 3 years of successful experience as a school administrator or related leadership management field. Possess a valid CNMI Administrators Certificate. Pass PRAXIS I (PPST) & PRAXIS II Content Knowledge Test.

***Detailed job description with qualification requirements can be obtained at PSS Human Resources Office at the 3rd Retirement Building, Capitol Hill, or download it online www.pss.cnmi.mp/humanresources**

Announcement No: **PSS-2008-055**
Position Title: **SCHOOL VICE-PRINCIPAL I-II**
Pay Level/Step: **UNGRADED**
Opening Date: **August 7, 2008**
Location: **PSS - SAIPAN / TINIAN / ROTA**
Application & Employment Type: **Non-Certified**
Per Annum Salary: **$40,00.00-$50,000.00**
Closing Date: **August 22, 2008**
Benefits: Salary Commensurate with qualifications and experience, plus excellent benefits (including Life Insurance, Retirement Benefits, and Paid Leave/Holidays
Minimum Requirements:
School Vice Principal I - Graduation from a U.S. accredited college or university with a Bachelor's Degree in Education or related area plus three (3) years experience in teaching or education administration. Pass PRAXIS I (PPST) & PRAXIS II Content Knowledge Test.

School Vice Principal II - Graduation from a U.S. accredited college or university with a Master's Degree in Education or related area plus three (3) years experience in teaching or education administration and must hold a valid administrator certification. Pass PRAXIS I (PPST) & PRAXIS II Content Knowledge Test.

***Detailed job description with qualification requirements can be obtained at PSS Human Resources Office at the 3rd Retirement Building, Capitol Hill, or download it online www.pss.cnmi.mp/humanresources**

Announcement No: **PSS-072-2007**
(Amendment/Re-Announcement II)
Position Title: **Procurement & Supply Officer**
Pay Level/Step: **35 / 01-12**
Opening Date: **August 11, 2008**
Location: **PSS – Procurement & Supply Office, Administrative Services Division**
Application & Employment Type: **Non-Certified**
Per Annum Salary: **$28,807.51 - $49,266.21**
Closing Date: **August 25, 2008**
Benefits: Salary Commensurate with qualifications and experience, plus excellent benefits (including Life Insurance, Retirement Benefits, and Paid Leave/Holidays
Minimum Requirements: **Graduation from a U.S. accredited college or university with a Bachelor's degree and at least six (6) years of procurement and supply work experience or related work experience, or Master's degree and (4) years work experience.**

***Detailed job description with qualification requirements can be obtained at PSS Human Resources Office at the 3rd Retirement Building, Capitol Hill, or download it online www.pss.cnmi.mp/humanresources**

INTERESTED APPLICANTS MAY OBTAIN A DETAILED JOB DESCRIPTION WITH QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS AND APPLICATION FORMS AT THE PSS HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE AT THE 3rd RETIREMENT BUILDING, CAPITOL HILL. REQUIRED DOCUMENTS MUST BE ATTACHED TO COMPLETE APPLICATION FORMS: (1) COPY OF DIPLOMA/DEGREE, (2) TRANSCRIPTS, (3) POLICE CLEARANCE (FROM PLACE OF RESIDENCE FOR PAST SIX0 MONTHS), (4) VERIFICATION OF EMPLOYMENT LETTER, (5) RESUME, AND (6) TEACHING CERTIFICATE (IF APPLICABLE).COMPLETED APPLICATIONS AND REQUIRED DOCUMENTS MAY BE SUBMITTED TO THE HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE OR MAILED TO: CNMI PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM, ATTN: HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE, RETIREMENT BUILDING; THIRD FLOOR, P.O. BOX 501370 CK, SAIPAN, MP 96950, and TEL. #. (670) 237-3051, FAX # (670) 664-3707. ALSO VISIT http://www.pss.cnmi.mp/humanresources ON THE WORLDWIDE WEB.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

A toxic proposal

For 7 1/2 years, the Labor Department has neglected the workers it's supposed to protect. Now it is rushing to make its pro-industry stand official policy. The Post's Carol D. Leonnig reported that the Labor Department has fast-tracked a proposal that would make it more difficult to regulate workplace safety.

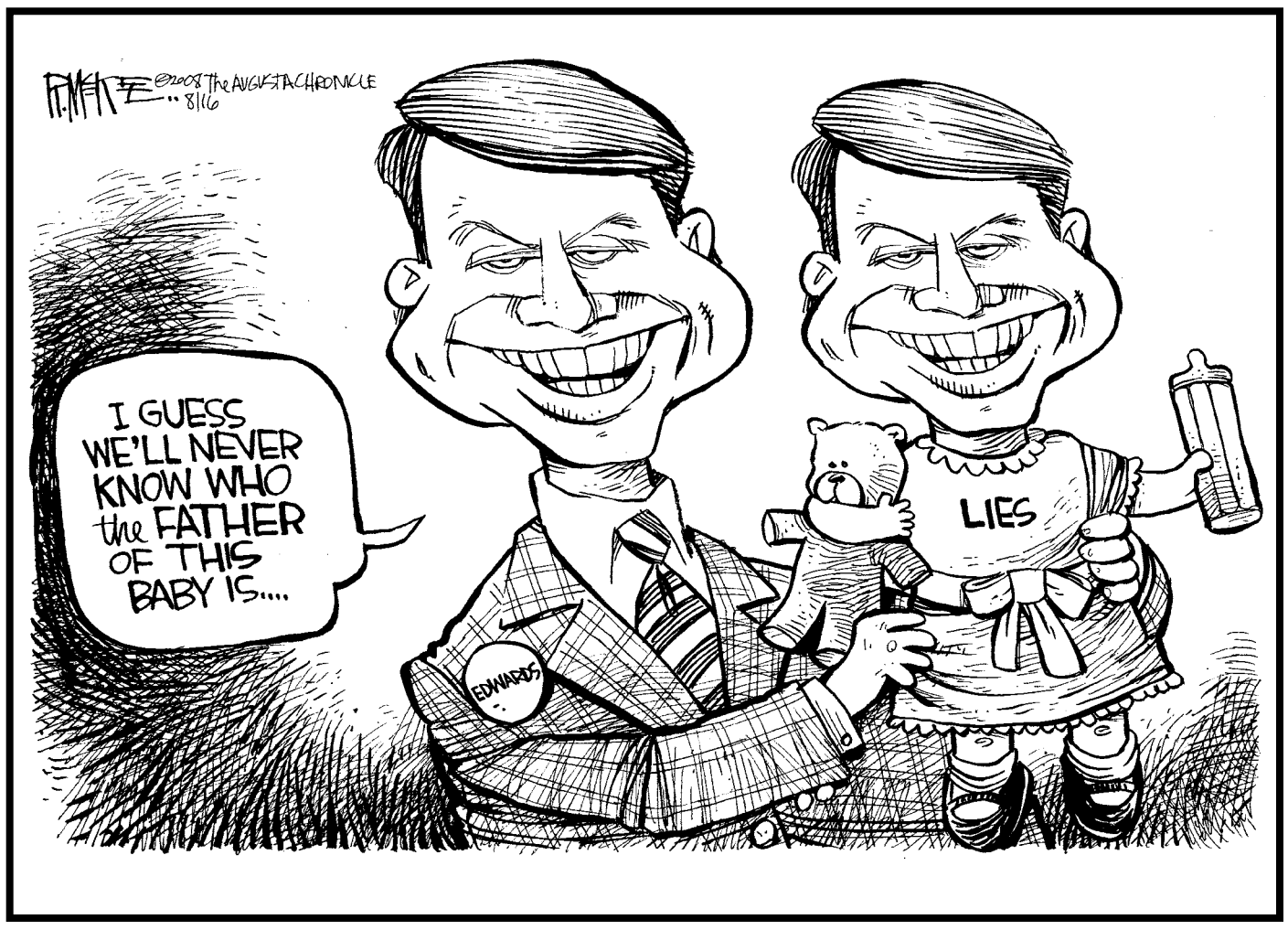
A last-minute policy push is nothing new to presidential administrations, but the Labor Department's proposal is particularly bold. The plan is an attempt by Labor's policy-makers to wrest control of the risk assessment process from scientists at the Occupational Safety and Health Administration. Doing so would add another layer to a byzantine regulatory process that would be difficult for future administrations to untangle. It would also undermine OSHA, an agency that already has too many procedural hurdles to clear.

The Office of Management and Budget released a report in 2006 stating that risk assessment should focus on actual, rather than possible, harm caused by toxins. This sounds reasonable, but Congress intended for risk assessment to be a preventive measure; by the time the dangers of toxins are apparent, it's often too late to protect workers. At the request of the OMB, a National Academy of Sciences committee reviewed the proposal. The scientists gave the report an "F" and described it as "fundamentally flawed." The OMB shelved the report, but the Labor Department's proposal resurrects much of its substance. Meanwhile, Labor has adopted one major health rule for a chemical in the workplace since President Bush took office — and that was under court order.

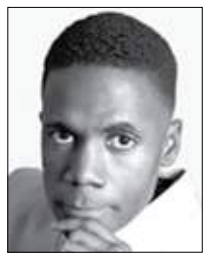
OSHA's problems did not begin with the Bush administration. The Supreme Court ruled in 1980 that OSHA could regulate a toxin only if it posed a "significant risk" to workers' health, a difficult standard to satisfy. The judiciary and Congress have continued to pare OSHA's authority. And while the nation's working population doubled from 1975 to 2006, OSHA's workforce dropped by 240 employees, to 2,165.

Some believe Congress should grant OSHA broader decision-making power. Others believe that the Environmental Protection Agency should handle the regulation of workplace toxins. But it is clear that the wrong way to fix an agency overburdened by procedure is to add another layer of regulation. The Labor Department should withdraw its proposal.

(c) 2008, The Washington Post



Top 10 reasons for not following your passion



THE SAIPANPRENEUR PROJECT
Creating economic success for the CNMI
By WALT F.J. GOODRIDGE
Special to the Saipan Tribune

The only way to take control of your life, raise your standard of living and move beyond merely surviving is to create your own unique product or service that you offer to increasing numbers of people in exchange for the things of value that you desire. This simple formula applies to countries as well as people. A self-sufficient economy has its own products or services of value to export to the world. Similarly, a self-sufficient individual has something of value to exchange in the global marketplace. That thing of value is based on your natural talent, skill, or interest—in other words, your passion!

As you proceed on your passion to profit journey, you may find yourself challenged by doubts and fears. It's only natural. While this is a natural part of being human, however, giving into those doubts and fears doesn't have to be. Here therefore, are my counterarguments for "The Top Ten Fear-Based Excuses People Give Themselves For Not Following Their Passion"

Reason #1: Will people really want to pay me for this?

If you believe that the only place your prosperity can come is from your employer, then that's the reality that you will create. If you accept that your good and all the blessings of the universe come from other sources, and that you can create and receive wealth for yourself from any channel, then you'll understand that you can make enough to thrive, not just survive! It's a law of the universe that people will pay for the things that have value to them.

Reason #2: I don't have the credentials.

Most successful entrepreneurs don't have a formal education or degree. If you are faced with a task you've never accomplished before, you don't need to be smart, you simply need to know what to do. Many successful passionpreneurs are simply people who knew the steps to take to go from where they were to were they wanted to be.

Reason #3: If it does sell, will my luck continue long enough for me to be successful?

The question is not whether IT will continue long enough for you to be successful, but will you? As long as you are providing value to the world, there will be people who will pay for it.

Reason #4: I don't know where to begin.

That's a common fear. You feel this way because you feel overwhelmed by the task. The trick is to make your list of things to do and simply take one step at a time.

Reason #5: I have kids and a family to feed.

Yes, and soon the kids will have more expenses, like college tuition. It's been at least 20 years since one or even two incomes has been enough to meet the average family's rising cost of living. Rather than working more and more hours to make more money, wouldn't it be easier to put something in place to decrease your dependence on a single stream of income? Your kids are the reason you want to make money. Don't let them be the excuse you use not to.

Reason #6: I'm not a good business person.

Again, that's not a requirement. Many of the most successful entrepreneurs are "idea people" who were simply smart enough to find people who are good in the areas they aren't.

Reason #7: If I leave my job, I'll lose my pension and benefits.

If it's predicted that 97 percent of the population will retire dependent on family, friends and the federal government to survive, and they're doing pretty much the same thing you are, what assurances do you have that your fate won't be the same? Besides, no one's saying you have to leave your job, but why not think about creating something that can create your own pension and benefits. It's my belief that no job can ever match the potential for prosperity of someone with the passion to succeed.

Reason #8: I'll think about that when I'm older.

And in the meantime? There really is no such thing as the future. There is only now. Your future and the lifestyle you desire is created by the things you choose to do now.

Reason #9: It'll take too long for me to be successful at it.

Ask yourself: "How old will I be in 10 years?" Then ask, "How old will I be in 10 years, if I don't do this?" Then ask, "How old will I be in 10 years if I do this?" The fact is, the years will pass regardless of what you decide to do with your life. By not pursuing your passion, however, you've simply decided to pass the years unhappy and frustrated rather than in empowering pursuit of fulfillment.

Reason #10: I'll start when I have the money to invest.

Many people assume that no actions can be taken unless and until they have a certain amount of money. In fact, just the opposite is true. Paperwork can be completed. Products can be designed. Calls can be made. Estimates can be acquired. Marketing strategies can be mapped out.

In addition, it's been my experience that if you proceed AS IF you have the money, faith, and the divine order of the universe will bring you what you need. Remember, we live in a supportive and creative universe. And this creative power of the universe is brought to bear by commitment, is multiplied by faith, and serves men and women who go after their dreams!

Note: For more tips on overcoming your fears, acting on your ideas, changing the game, and creating a passion-centered lifestyle, visit www.passionprofit.com!

Note: There's a new blog in town! Check out www.blacksonsaipan.com

See TOP 10 on Page 11

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

A new start for the economy

Second of a four-part series

By WILLIAM H. STEWART
Special to the Saipan Tribune

William H. Stewart is an economist, historian and military cartographer.

Both domestic and foreign investment abhor uncertainty resulting from frequent changes in laws and regulations such as those which have occurred in the Commonwealth in recent years.

Many existing businesses and potential investors view the islands' business climate as unstable. Judging from the many laws and regulations that have been enacted intended to govern business activity, a great many were later found to have been ill considered after the unintended, unanticipated consequences came to light which often required amendments to the original laws or regulations and sometimes—even amendments to amendments. It was a simple case of people passing laws who had little or no experience in business and thus were unaware of the needs of private enterprise.

What would your impression be of the islands as an investment location if your initial research into the area's economic and political background revealed the following from newspaper archives, blogs, Internet web pages, GAO reports, audit investigations and independent confidential studies as undertaken by private consultants?

For example, a few years ago a prominent journalist lamented the attitude of some islanders who (and I paraphrase) appear to have been adversely influenced by "protectionist policies" of the local legislature which, according to that writer, fueled the poison of "disdain or hatred" toward those not of the islands who nevertheless established themselves in the Marianas.

Certainly a revealing statement offering an unusual and candid degree of insight from one who presumably had the pulse of many local islanders in the community who harbored such an attitude.

The journalist continued: "Our ill-conceived protectionist policies have done nothing but fuel the venom of disdain or hatred for foreigners who mean well and have openly established themselves here to partake in the growth of these isles. As much as I'd like to see locals partake in the spirit of entrepreneurship, only a few are willing to take risks in the provision of goods and services."

Friends, any private economic consultant, if engaged by a potential investor, when looking deep enough will find that in the early '90s there was widespread adverse publicity surrounding Article XII which involved several large foreign investments. This avalanche of unfavorable publicity surrounding the Commonwealth Court's decision relative to Article XII began to appear in the press throughout Asia and North America under headlines such as: "Indian Givers?" - *Guam Business News* (July,'91); "Northern Marianas, Land Alienation," - *Guam Business Almanac* ('92); "Paradise Postponed," - *Guam Business News* (July, '92); "Saipan: Land of Disenchantment," - *Building Industry* (May '93); "Gambling, Gangs and the Sleepy Marianas," - *Far East Economic Review* (July 15, '93); "CNMI: Paradise for Gangsters, Lawyers," - *Pacific Daily News* (Aug. 16, '93); "Asian Developers Bypassing Saipan," - *Marianas Variety* (Aug. 23, '93) and other negative banners.

All this is public knowledge and available for review in the archives of the above listed publications.

Then there is the opinion of some who publicly state in response to the notice that the U.S. Congress had imposed an eight-year "phase-in" of the federal minimum wage in the Commonwealth that some within the resident business community long opposed—at which time an indigenous U.S. citizen advanced the following opinion (paraphrased) that the Northern Marianas should review an alternative to the present political relationship as a Commonwealth with the United States.

The author suggested as an alternative "a sovereign entity." (Source: Chamorro.com, "Isla Telesis" dated Memorial Day, May 28, 2007) Well, that's fine—review the relationship—but at the same time evaluate the economic loss that will occur if, and when, the relationship is terminated, which can legally occur when mutually agreed upon by both the U.S. and the NMI.

What is a potential foreign investor to think of the above suggestion to review the current relationship with the U.S. when he or she is unfamiliar with the Covenant and the history of the islands' association with the United States? I'll tell you what he is likely to think: "Whoa, this place may not be all that politically stable for my investment as the future unfolds. Goodbye."

In May 1989, officials of the Commonwealth appeared before the United Nations Trusteeship Council and accused the United States of asserting "imperial territorial claims" over the Commonwealth by trying to turn the islands into a colony. The members of this group urged the United Nations to continue to maintain control until the United States granted full self-government.

Again in May 1990, the CNMI's Trust Termination Task Force presented their position before the United Nations that the Commonwealth disagreed with the United States as to its rights under international law. Thus, more than a dozen years after achieving Commonwealth status in affiliation with the United States there was still some confusion as to the extent of the relationship and the degree of self-government and autonomy the CNMI could exercise.

I'm reminded that sometime ago when someone on Saipan advocated independence, a U.S. Congressman replied something to the effect, "Be careful what you wish for—it can be arranged."

The matter of independence for the CNMI was brought to the fore several times in the early '90s when an Assistant Secretary of the U. S. Department of Interior remarked regarding the existing terms of the relationship within the Covenant between the U.S. and the NMI: "Freedom to choose a political status carries with it the responsibility, first, to make an informed choice and second, to live with the benefits and responsibilities of that choice."

The official further stated, "For insular leaders to argue that what they freely chose several years ago is not what they thought they were choosing is a criticism of those who chose, not those who offered the choice. It is clear from the plain English of the historical documents involved that the United States has sovereignty in the Commonwealth—sovereignty is not conditional and does not lend itself to subject applicability."

Again, what is a potential investor to think when such information comes to his or her attention? Some of them must wonder, "Am I going to be under the American flag 10 years from now, in 20 years?" Some of the more astute investors must think, "Is this place going to be with the U.S. over the long-haul, or just as long as they can maintain the financial pipeline to the U.S. Treasury?"

As I have stated previously in this column, make no mistake about it: The one thing that the NMI has to its advantage in generating foreign investment above everything else is American law.

When the American flag went up in the NMI it was a signal to all investors, domestic and foreign alike, that many major United States laws prevailed, which is the absolute bedrock of stability upon which confidence rests and which creates the investment atmosphere permitting individuals and businesses to prosper and grow. The American judicial system and its highly developed system of commercial law is a system proven to be acceptable to those who have not been previously acquainted with its jurisdiction. United States courts have inspired confidence in the international business community with a system of contractual law based on rules that are well known and respected throughout the free world.

The court is certain and not arbitrary in the application of a legal system that provides one of the most essential ingredients for creating business confidence and that is the absence of arbitrary power and the knowledge that unconstitutional change (as relates to the United States Constitution) will not occur.

Take that assurance away and you will most likely not have any foreign investment. The simple hard fact is that most politicians are simply not trusted to keep their word. Sorry, but that's the way it is.

To be continued.

Letter to the Editor

Guest workers are helpless!

I know most of the guest workers nowadays would just want to raise the white flag and surrender and for a good reason. A good number of guest workers have been cheated and not paid. The Department of Labor gave them an Administrative Order proving that they were owed wages but instead of directing the bonding companies to pay them, the guest workers have been told to file in the small claims court to pursue the collection. I'm curious if anyone in the government cares about the success rate, meaning what percent of these awarded unpaid wages are actually collected. As far as I know, this issue is almost as good as dead. It dies from the time DOL said they're not a collection agency. Most of the guest workers don't have money to pay for filing the case. There are those who don't know how or where to start. As far as they know, somebody owes them money and they are keeping their administrative orders safely in their pockets. They don't even know that after six years, those Administrative Orders won't mean a thing.

Meanwhile, these guest workers have to leave the CNMI because their contracts are not renewed and they cannot find a new employer. With them as they leave is a piece of paper saying they have money. These people would always tell me they have money but only in paper. Sad story!

Believe it or not, I look at things as fairly as possible but there are things that leave some questions in my mind. For example, how accurate really is the data of DOL? I heard not only once that the notices of denial which they publish in the newspaper have names of guest workers who are either long gone, have permits already released, etc.

I understand that DOL wants to eliminate illegal sponsorships, which I fully support, but in the process do they not hurt those who are legitimate employers? I'm sorry to say that guest workers feel that the system for the most part is heartless and without mercy. Perhaps we are wrong but we are waiting for a glimpse, no matter how small, of any reason for us to believe that we are being treated fairly.

While contemplating what the guest workers should do to be treated as accepted partners, willing to work and not against our host, like a child making a list for Santa this Christmas, here are my wishes:

a) For Cinta Kaipan to realize that she's working at Labor and given that, she should show impartiality. Notwithstanding her personal views, as long as she's speaking as a Labor employee, she should maintain the appearance of independence. Though guest workers should be going to DOL for labor questions or complaints, we don't because we fear Cinta Kaipat. I pray that instead of building fear among the guest workers, she will bridge the gap so the resident and nonresident workers can understand how each can compliment the other and work in harmony.

b) That DOL will set up their system for e-filing of labor complaints since they are now requiring employers and employees to have e-mail addresses.

c) That Labor Director Barry Hirshbein will remember that he told us one time that guest workers should not be sent home as long as there is a willing employer. From what I understand, the federal government and the local government capped the guest workers at 22,417 to make sure that there is enough guest workers in place when federal takes over next year. I wish that DOL would allow the guest workers who have been here on island for five, 10, 15 years or more to stay if there are employers who are willing to hire them and not deport them. I hope that it's not their objective to reduce the number of long-term guest workers to only a few so nobody will qualify if the federal government will give a better status to long-term guest workers.

d) As a community, that we accept the fact that times are changing and it will work best to our advantage if we only accept to co-exist harmoniously.

By now, I am resigned to the fact that there are people who consider guest workers as intruders and, like leeches, are just sucking whatever these islands can give us. I am not losing hope, though, that one day they will realize that we are also human beings, with feelings. And while it's true that we need the CNMI so we can afford to give better lives to our families back home, the CNMI benefits from our contribution as well.

A pastor in a local church once told me that he knows God will bless CNMI if we stop withholding blessings for other people. Put simply, God blesses those who know how to share their blessings.

Irene N. Tantiado
Capital Hill, Saipan

TOP 10

From Page 10

Until next week, remember, success is a journey, not a destination!

Walt F.J. Goodridge is author of 12 books including Turn Your Passion Into Profit. Walt offers coaching and workshops to help people pursue and profit from their passions. Originally from the island of Jamaica, Walt has grown several successful businesses in the US, and now makes his home here in Saipan. To learn more about the Saipanpreneur Project and Walt's philosophy and formula visit www.saipanpreneur.com and www.passionprofit.com.

Send article suggestions, entrepreneur nominations and feedback about this article to walt@passionprofit.com.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. Light and variable winds.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼77°	▲88° ▼76°	▲88° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲86° ▼76°

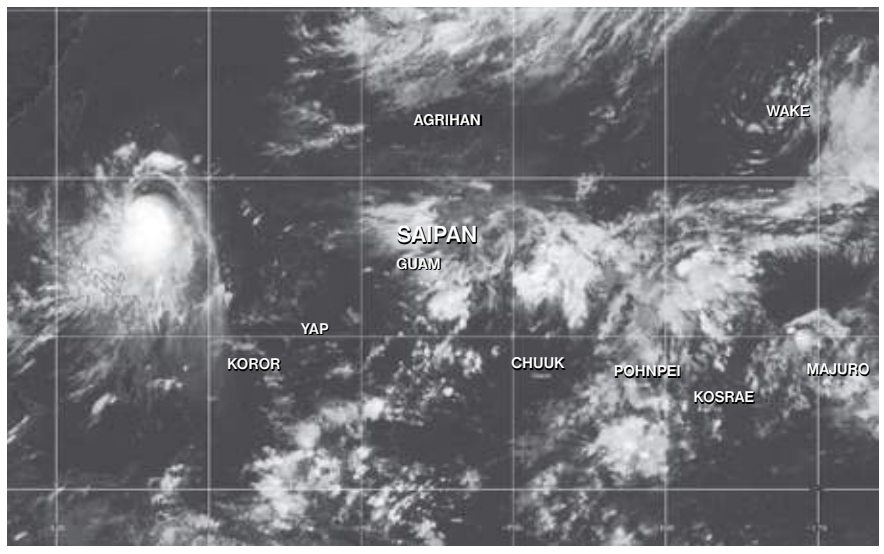
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Cloudy	▲85	▼77
Palau	Cloudy	▲86	▼78
Yap	Mostly Cloudy	▲86	▼77
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼77
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼72
Kosrae	Mostly Cloudy	▲88	▼76
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼74

Around The Globe

Auckland	Cloudy	▲56	▼47
Beijing	Partly Sunny	▲80	▼66
Hong Kong	Cloudy	▲90	▼83
Honolulu	Showers	▲84	▼76
London	Cloudy	▲70	▼55
Los Angeles	Cloudy	▲82	▼64
Manila	Thunderstorms	▲83	▼77
Melbourne	Cloudy	▲63	▼51
Miami	Mostly Sunny	▲79	▼64
New York	Mostly Sunny	▲79	▼64
Osaka	Cloudy	▲83	▼69
Paris	Partly Sunny	▲73	▼60
Pusan	Partly Sunny	▲82	▼70
Rome	Sunny	▲88	▼64
Salem	Rain	▲72	▼57
San Francisco	Mostly Cloudy	▲73	▼60
Seoul	Mostly Cloudy	▲81	▼66
Tokyo	Showers	▲84	▼73
Washington, DC	Partly Sunny	▲83	▼66

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:35PM, TUESDAY, AUGUST 19, 2008
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A surface trough located east of the Marianas extending from 19N147E to 11N147E is producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms over the Marianas within 60 miles within a line from 18N143E to 12N147E. Upper-level divergence farther east of the Marianas is enhancing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms between 18N and 11N from 150E to 155E. A surface trough running southward from 14N164E to 9N162E is combining with upper level divergence to produce scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms between 15N and 9N from 160E to 165E. An upper-level low centered near 24N165E is producing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms east of Wake Island or within 60 miles of an arc from 18N167E to 19N171E to 22N174E. Trade-wind convergence aided by upper-level divergence is producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms over the Marshall Islands and Kwajalein within 150 miles of line from 9N167E to 6N180E. Surface convergence south of Yap and Palau is producing widely scattered showers and a few thunderstorms within 60 miles of a line from eq136E to 5N141E. Trade-wind convergence is triggering scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms over Pohnpei between 8N and 1N from 154E to 160E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

3:56AM Today	Low Tide:	0.6 Feet
9:32AM Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
3:57PM Today	Low Tide:	0.3 Feet
10:06PM Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:03AM	6:37 PM
Thursday	6:03AM	6:37 PM
Friday	6:03AM	6:36 PM
Saturday	6:04AM	6:35 PM
Sunday	6:04AM	6:35 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	8:48PM	8:39AM
Thursday	9:29PM	9:34AM
Friday	10:15PM	10:31AM
Saturday	11:05PM	11:31AM
Sunday		12:34AM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
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- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JULY 18, 2008

DEPARTURES

Saipan-Rota

CO 9313	8:30am	9:05am	3,4,7

Saipan-Guam

CO9317	4:00am	4:50am	Daily
CO9597	8:30am	9:20am	1,2,5,6
CO9313	8:30am	10:00am	3,4,7 via Rota
CO9601	12:30pm	1:20pm	Daily
CO9603	3:30pm	4:20pm	Daily
CO9605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
CO9599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily

Saipan-Narita

NW 099	5:00am	7:40am	Daily
NW 078	8:55am	2:00pm	Daily
NW 075	4:45pm	7:25pm	Daily

Saipan-Osaka

NW 083	4:20pm	7:05pm	Daily

Saipan-Nagoya

NW 078	8:55am	11:35am	Daily

Saipan-Seoul

OZ 604	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ 604	2:50am	6:30am	2,3,4,5,6,7
OZ 606	3:30pm	7:00pm	2,4,6,7

Saipan-Busan

OZ 608	3:50am	7:20am	1,4,5,7

Guam-Manila

CO 891	6:00am	10:30am	3 via Yap and Koror
CO 893	6:30am	8:05am	6
CO 893	8:25am	10:00am	2,7
CO 893	5:50pm	9:10pm	5 via Koror
CO 933	7:00pm	8:40pm	Daily
PR 111	6:00am	7:45am	1,2,4,6,7

Saipan-Guanzhou

CZ 3008	5:00am	8:00am	2,6

Guam-Hongkong

CO 909	6:40pm	9:25pm	1,5

Guam-Rota

CO 9598	10:15am	10:45am	1,2,6

ARRIVALS

Rota-Saipan

CO 9598	11:10am	11:45am	1,2,6

Guam-Saipan

CO 9316	2:30am	3:20am	Daily
CO9596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
CO9598	10:15am	11:45am	1,2,6 via Rota
CO9600	10:45am	11:35am	3,4,5,7
CO9602	2:00pm	2:50pm	Daily
CO9604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
CO9606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

Narita-Saipan

NW 076	10:15am	2:55pm	Daily
NW 077	6:25pm	1:30am+1	Daily
NW 100	8:45pm	1:25am+1	Daily

Osaka-Saipan

NW 084	10:30am	3:05pm	Daily

Nagoya-Saipan

NW 077	9:00pm	1:30am+1	Daily

Seoul-Saipan

OZ 605	9:00am	2:30pm	2,4,6,7
OZ 603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ 603	8:10pm	1:40am+1	1,2,3,4,5,6

Busan-Saipan

OZ 607	9:30pm	2:50am+1	3,4,6,7

Manila-Guam

CO 894	11:20am	4:55pm	2,7
CO 894	7:45pm	1:20am+1	6
CO 892	9:45pm	6:30am+1	3 via Koror and Yap
CO 892	10:10pm	5:30am+1	5 via Koror
CO 934	10:55pm	4:30am+1	Daily
PR 110	10:20pm	4:00am+1	1,3,5,6,7

Guanzhou-Saipan

CZ 3007	8:00pm	4:00am+1	1,5

Hongkong-Guam

CO 910	10:35pm	5:15am+1	1,5

Rota-Guam

CO 9313	9:30am	10:00am	3,4,7

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; PR: Philippine Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CA: Air China; NW: Northwest; JO: Japan Airlines; OZ: Asiana; MU: China Eastern ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

Letters to the Editor

Culture and political discrimination

I must say thanks to Rep. Tina Sablan for her courageous stand against the reprogramming of funds. She may have been the Lone Ranger by voting against the bill but she is certainly not alone when it comes to fighting for what is right, fair and equal. Many of the world leaders and activist for what is right and fair have found themselves alone in their stance so that really puts her in very good company with some great people. You, Tina, are ahead of the times and some of your own people have frowned on you for wanting to treat everyone fairly and equally but I want to commend you for being "real people" as we say in my culture and that's a *big* compliment for those of you who are not familiar with Ebonics.

But what really got my attention was the discriminatory allocation of funds to double the Little League funding. I don't have anything against baseball or the Little League but we already have baseball fields *everywhere*! There is *no* justification for another baseball field when we have plenty of baseball fields and there are so many other needs associated with other sports and the thousands of other youth who *don't* play baseball. We have entire school regions in the North, South and in Kagman that need sports facilities and the funny part is that the only sports facility they did build in these villages were baseball fields! Now they want another one on Navy Hill where the community is insufficient to support the need for a new field. I'm sure people with common sense can see it is not fair and it's clearly wrong to the other kids.

I really think the Legislature is unaware of the phenomena they have played into because baseball was the first American sport to truly be assimilated into the indigenous culture. Baseball has become a part of the culture in the CNMI and now the Legislature is overcompensating for this phenomenon. Many of the people in the Legislature grew up playing baseball so what else do they know but more baseball? But balance is a very important factor in every aspect of human nature and our existence as a community. If you compare baseball to other sports, it is clear the Legislature has for years discriminated against other sports in favor of baseball.

The time has come for the CNMI to start shifting the focus to other sports and to pursue the model that so many other island countries and nations have pursued to get their athletes into the Olympics. When will the CNMI make a quest for the gold and I wonder if the thought of getting a CNMI athlete into the Olympics has ever crossed their minds? Sports update: Baseball in no longer an Olympic sport but we are building more fields instead of setting the conditions in the school regions to develop other athletes. I've said for years that diving may give us our first gold in the Olympics" if we can ever get our children off the dock and put up a diving board for them with a coach, but who cares in the Legislature? If the CNMI was turning out baseball stars like we see with Cuba, I wouldn't be writing this but we aren't. Now my own daughter is showing promise and I want to see an Olympian from the CNMI in any sport and I'm not alone, as my wife might say. We need to change our focus and it's the Legislature's job to set the conditions for *all* of our children to be successful in whatever sport they pursue beyond baseball.

But with baseball being so big in the CNMI, the most obvious adverse effect is the politics associated with baseball. Hundreds of families are now associated with baseball in the CNMI and that means votes—enough to sway an election. When we had money, they chose a baseball field on Capital Hill over the construction of a new Governor's Office and a Legislative Building, which are outdated, insufficient and falling apart. I discovered over $30,000 from the lottery that was just sitting there and tried to have the Legislature give it to teachers but they took the money and dumped it into a consolidated fund, which ended up completing the baseball field on Capital Hill. So you can see, baseball is more important than our teachers and now baseball is being prioritized during these hard times and with no consideration for the other students that don't play baseball. *Basta, enough baseball fields*!

When it comes to sports in the CNMI the Legislature really needs to focus on setting the conditions for a variety of sports activities beyond baseball in the communities where there are schools and where the children live. I've mentioned before how difficult it is on parents in Kagman to have children participating in sports and now the price of gas had added an additional financial burden. The children and parents of Kagman, southern and northern end of Saipan need legislative prudence—not legislative discrimination.

On a special note: Congratulations are also due to Mr. Ed Propst for making the activist list for the CNMI. His letter of disappointment about the prejudice he has faced, all because he is trying to make a difference, is synonymous with the same challenges I have faced as an activist on social, economic and political issues facing the community. If you weren't getting any negative feedback you probably wasn't very effective. However, you are, and it simply means you are gaining social and political real estate that members of the "ruling social class" will always reject. It doesn't matter that you are right; it's the fact that you are not one of them. But just keep sowing the "good seeds" because time is your friend if you stay the course and is not discouraged by haters, your seeds will grow. Time will catch up with the haters and prove you right in the end.

Welcome to the club and I'm glad to see more people being vocal about the destruction of this social imperialist wall that is still being perpetuated by a few but powerful who want to separate and place the indigenous people above everyone else in the CNMI. The challenge is big because there is still enmity between the Chamorros of Guam and the CNMI so what does that say about an "outsider's" chances? But just remember and stick to your guns, Ed, because it takes only two keys to open the doors for a transparent and responsible government to deliver prosperity and equality for everyone in the CNMI: "informed and active citizens," (*Federalist Papers* by James Madison, John Jay & Alexander Hamilton).

Ambrose M. Bennett
Kagman, Saipan

4.7 million reasons

May I weigh in on the $4.7 million earmarked against anticipated poker fee revenues for fiscal year 2009. In its wisdom, the Saipan and Northern Islands delegation of the CNMI Legislature passed House Local bill 16-10 that is, at least to my mind, a bit strange.

I am a teacher at Marianas High School in the Public School System. I have lived in the Mariana Islands for over 29 years. Every election year we hear from the politicians about how our children are our future. And every year, after these same politicians take office, they fail to appropriate enough money to run the public schools. In fact, invariably whatever little money is appropriated is then later reduced by a million or so dollars. Each year the public schools must rely on the largess of the private sector through contributions to address the basic needs of the students such as desks, books, and toilet tissue. Yet each year these fine public servants and supporters of the educational institutions of the CNMI can find money for baseball, fishing derbies, carnivals, and whatever other insane pet project benefits the few and not the public.

I have never understood the mentality of people who out of one side of their face speak to economic prosperity and out of the other side send every dollar that they can out of the community. SHEFA and every other public scholarship (it's really a loan) in their current configuration should be discontinued. The CNMI sends hundreds of thousands of dollars off-island to other institutions while neglecting the Northern Marianas College.

A student with a scholarship from Hawaii doesn't get to use that scholarship in California. One might argue that NMC doesn't offer certain courses. Well, how about the student going to NMC for the first two years and then transferring with a scholarship to another school. We can then save millions of dollars. I wonder how many of our politicians relatives are taking advantage of these scholarships.

The people of Rota voted for gambling on Rota. If they want gambling there, I say have yourself a grand old time. But why is the district of Saipan paying for the Rota Gaming Commission? Well?

I'd like to know why we are subsidizing money for a trade institute that isn't at NMC. Not to put too fine a point on it, but this smells bad.

Are people lined up on Navy Hill to play at the existing baseball field? Are they rioting because they missed their turn to play? Are they turning to drugs because they can't play at Navy Hill because there aren't enough baseball fields?

Is the public going to the marina and tripping over themselves in adulation of the fishing competitors? OK, I can't find one reason to make fun of this activity. It's just stupid to give public funds to people who can afford the boats and gear for this activity. I apologize because I sometimes tend to ramble, but in any case I think you get my drift.

Then to top this nonsense off, I read in the paper that Pete Reyes attempts to chastise Tina Sablan for being the voice of reason and clarity. I'm not even going to address that. The article speaks for itself. I will say that the mantra I support is education. Look at me, I donate my salary to education as the scholarship office is getting thin.

On another topic, I received a copy of the governor's latest declaration of martial law, I mean state of emergency, on Monday, but I didn't read about it in the paper until Thursday, I think. What is up with that? Was the print media not informed? Did they not think this a newsworthy item? Have they become so used to the state of emergency idea that it no longer impresses them or gets their attention?

To paraphrase one of the greatest poets of our time: The people can't hit what the people can't see, float like a butterfly, and as to the allegations against Tim Villagomez, it doesn't matter if he is guilty or not, the very appearance of the lieutenant governor being led away in handcuffs to federal court should be enough for him to voluntarily resign from office. Lt. Gov. Villagomez should honor the integrity of the office if not his own personal integrity. I'm sure he won't but I could be wrong.

John H. Davis Jr.
Fina Sisu, Saipan

Just thought I'd ask

Having been off island for some time this summer I was able to take a few steps back from the day-to-day drama of Saipan to assess some personal issues as well as to assess CNMI issues at large.

I've discovered that there is so much to ponder and to be concerned about that it becomes difficult to know where to begin. Nonetheless here we go.

A few questions to get "up to speed":

- Did I somehow miss the announcement on the winners of the big drawing associated with the Rotary Club's *Las Vegas Night*. Is the drawing completed? Did I win anything?
- Did the Governor actually declare a state of emergency for the CNMI regarding the operation of CUC on Aug. 1 and not inform the Legislature (or anyone else?) until Aug. 14? Is that in keeping with transparency and full-disclosure? Is it legal, usual, and customary?
- Did a $4.7 million funding bill get introduced and voted upon in a single morning? Was it significantly altered and amended from the first time it was introduced? Did the people's representatives have adequate time and resources to read, understand and investigate all of the items funded before it was put to a vote? Was *due diligence* accomplished?
- Did Rep. Pete Reyes really admonish Rep. Tina Sablan in public saying that she should "get on board the train or be left behind"? And did he go further and accuse her of being against all the "worthwhile" interests that were earmarked in the above referenced bill?
- Does the $50,000 Little League funding only benefit boys, and not girls? Is there some funding somewhere for girls? Or for that matter for children who don't play baseball?
- Are workers and visitors to the main power plant really instructed to back into the parking spaces so they can make a quick escape should the plant begin to burn or explode? Are workers really at risk of being maimed or killed by engines which appear on the verge of exploding?

Just thought I'd ask.

Perry Conner
As Matuis, Saipan

Tinian DPS 'detectives'

As a concerned citizen, I speak for the victims of Tinian and I would like to say that the so called "detectives" of Tinian have no clue of what they are doing. Countless crimes have been committed but most of them weren't actually solved. One of those crimes is robbery and theft worth $100-$1,500.

The biggest issue is that justice isn't being given to the victims who rightly deserve it. It really seems as if they either don't care or if they don't know how to rightfully do their job. Some cases have been so-called "being looked into" or "still under investigation" up until two years but nothing was done. Are they unaware of what the purpose of being a detective really means? If not, then what? Why aren't this cases being solved? These people are hired and given a title "detective," but for what reason? They don't deserve to have that title while being paid to come to work and do nothing at all but to go around in their government car, waste gas and waste government money. I don't think that's fair. Do you? What I'm saying might be mean but it's the truth. This has been going on for way too long and something has to be done.

David San Nicolas Jr.
Tinian

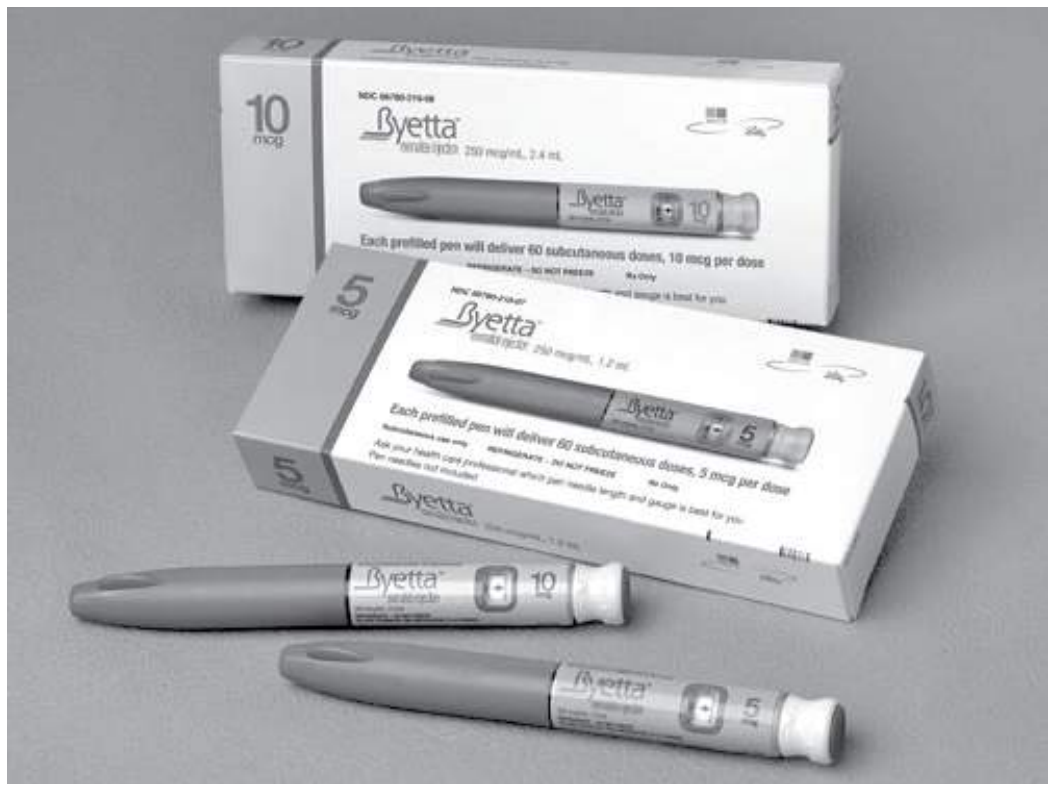
Business

New deaths reported with diabetes drug Byetta

WASHINGTON (AP)—Federal regulators are working on a stronger label for a widely used diabetes drug marketed by Amylin Pharmaceuticals Inc. and Eli Lilly & Co. as deaths continue to be reported despite earlier government warnings.

The Food and Drug Administration said Monday it has received six additional reports of patients developing a dangerous form of pancreatitis while taking Byetta. Two of the patients died and four were recovering.

Regulators stressed that patients should stop taking Byetta immediately if they develop signs of acute pancreatitis, a swelling of the pancreas that can cause nausea, vomiting and abdominal pain. The FDA warned that it is very difficult to distinguish acute pancreatitis from less dangerous forms of the condition.



The FDA announcement updated an October alert about 30 reports of Byetta patients developing pancreas problems. At that time Byetta's makers agreed to add information about the reports to the drug's label.

However, the FDA made clear Monday that it is seeking a stronger, more prominent warning about the risks. Amylin and Eli Lilly said in a statement that patients taking Byetta have shown "very rare case reports of pancreatitis with complications or with a fatal outcome." The companies added that diabetes patients are already at increased risk of pancreatitis compared with healthy patients. The pancreas produces several important biological fluids, including insulin—the sugar-regulating hormone that most diabetics lack.

The FDA said doctors should consider prescribing other medications to patients with a history of pancreas problems.

Byetta competes against blockbuster drugs from GlaxoSmithKline PLC and Takeda Pharmaceuticals in the $24 billion global market for diabetes medications, according to health care research firm IMS Health.

More than 700,000 patients with type 2 diabetes have used the injectable drug since it was launched in June 2005. It is jointly developed and manufactured by San Diego-based Amylin and Eli Lilly.

Byetta's $636 million in sales made up about 80 percent of Amylin's total revenue last year. The drug accounted for just 3 percent of Eli Lilly's sales. The companies are developing a long-lasting version of Byetta that could be injected once weekly, instead of twice daily.

Researchers: Merck Vioxx study was for marketing

TRENTON, N.J. (AP)—A 1999 Merck & Co. study of its since-withdrawn painkiller Vioxx, touted to participating doctors and patients as meant to show whether Vioxx caused fewer stomach problems than another drug, was primarily a stealth marketing strategy, researchers report.

The true purpose was to get lots of doctors and patients in the habit of using Vioxx just in time for its launch, according to doctors who uncovered internal Merck memos discussing the strategy behind the study, called ADVANTAGE. They did so while reviewing roughly a million Merck documents for plaintiffs' lawyers preparing for trials in Vioxx lawsuits.

Drug companies are widely suspected of doing many such "seeding," or marketing studies, but there's been no "smoking gun" proving it before, according to the Annals of Internal Medicine, which published Merck's original report on ADVANTAGE in 2003 and will publish the new report Tuesday.

An accompanying editorial, co-authored by Annals editor Dr. Harold C. Sox, states the journal was not told the true purpose of ADVANTAGE, which compared Vioxx with an older, cheaper pain reliever, naproxen, when it published results indicating Vioxx was better tolerated.

Oil prices fall below $113 as storm threat eases

NEW YORK (AP)—Crude prices settled below $113 a barrel for the first time in over three months Monday as Tropical Storm Fay steered clear of oil-producing infrastructure in the Gulf of Mexico.

Light, sweet crude for September delivery fell 90 cents to settle at $112.87 on the New York Mercantile Exchange, after earlier rising as high as $115.35. It was the first time crude ended below $113 since May 1. The contract fell $1.24 on Friday to settle at $113.77 a barrel, about $35, or 24 percent, lower than its trading record of $147.27, set July 11. At the pump, a gallon of regular fell another penny overnight to a new national average of $3.741, according to auto club AAA, the Oil Price Information Service and Wright Express. With consumers cutting back on driving to save money, prices have now dropped 9 percent from the record $4.114 retail gas reached July 17.

Fay, the sixth named storm of the 2008 Atlantic season, was approaching the Florida Keys after leaving at least eight people dead in Haiti and the Dominican Republic. The storm is expected to near hurricane strength later Monday but does not currently pose a threat to oil platforms in the Gulf, forecasters said.

"The storm's not a concern. It just doesn't look like it's going to do a lot of damage," said Jim Ritterbusch, president of energy consultancy Ritterbusch and Associates in Galena, Ill.

Platform could take 20 pct. of US oil imports

HOUSTON (AP)—An oil terminal and pipeline network expected to be built off the Texas Gulf Coast and open in about two years would be capable of handling nearly 20 percent of the nation's daily imported oil.

Demand from expanding refineries along the coast, from Freeport to Port Arthur, is driving the $1.8 billion project, executives of the joint partnership said Monday. It will be the second offshore port in the Gulf of Mexico.

The Texas Offshore Port System, or TOPS, is a joint venture of Enterprise Products Partners LP and Teppco Partners LP, both based in Houston, and Oiltanking Holding Americas Inc., a subsidiary of Germany's privately held Marquard & Bahls AG.

The terminal will allow huge oceanic tankers to unload crude about 36 miles off the coast of Freeport, avoiding sometimes fog-shrouded coastal areas and other hazards.

Two floating buoys at the terminal will be connected to a pumping facility anchored in 115 feet of water, which will move the oil to shore via an undersea pipeline. Once ashore, another pipeline network will carry the oil to storage tanks and refineries. Altogether, the pipeline network is expected to be 160 miles. In a conference call Monday, Enterprise president and chief executive Mike Creel said TOPS is needed to provide for ongoing refinery expansion along the Texas Gulf Coast.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

'Liar loans' threaten to prolong mortgage crisis

In the mortgage industry, they are called "liar loans"—mortgages approved without requiring proof of the borrower's income or assets. The worst of them earn the nickname "ninja loans," short for "no income, no job, and (no) assets." The nation's struggling housing market, already awash in subprime foreclosures, is now getting hit with a second wave of losses as homeowners with liar loans default in record numbers. In some parts of the country, the loans are threatening to drag out the mortgage crisis for another two years. Many homeowners with liar loans are stuck. They can't refinance because housing prices in those markets have nose-dived, and lenders are now demanding full documentation of income and assets. Losses on liar loans could total $100 billion, according to Moody's Economy.com. That's on top of the $400 billion in expected losses from subprime loans. ***(AP)***

Wall Street pulls back as financials fall

NEW YORK (AP)—Wall Street retreated Monday after Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac fell to their lowest levels in nearly 20 years on concerns that the government might need to bail out the mortgage financiers. Weakness in the overall financial sector sent the Dow Jones industrial average down more than 175 points The Dow Jones industrial average fell 180.51, or 1.55 percent, to 11,479.39. The Dow had been down about 225 points at its lows of the session. Broader stock indicators also declined. The Standard & Poor's 500 index fell 19.60, or 1.51 percent, to 1,278.60, and the Nasdaq composite index fell 35.54, or 1.45 percent, to 2,416.98.

SoCal home sales climb in July, prices fall

SAN DIEGO (AP)—Southern California home sales surged to a 16-month high in July as prices kept falling and bargain-hunters snapped up foreclosed properties, a research firm said Monday. A total of 20,329 homes and condos—including new and existing models—were sold during July in the six-county region, up 13.8 percent from July 2007 and up 16.7 percent from June, MDA DataQuick said. It was the highest monthly tally since March 2007, when 21,856 homes were sold, and the first annual increase since September 2005, the firm said. Sales were helped as the median price in the region dropped to $348,000 last month, down 31.1 percent from the market peak of $505,000 in July 2007 and down 2.2 percent from $355,000 in June.

ASIAN MARKETS

	AUSTRALIA 4,943.30 Down 100.80 (-2.00%)	
HONG KONG 20,814.79 Down 115.88 (-0.55%)		JAKARTA 2,059.79 Down 25.36 (-1.22%)
TOKYO 12,848.61 Down 326.14 (-2.48%)		K. LUMPUR 1,095.05 Down 14.38 (-1.30%)
MANILA 2,691.20 Down 33.95 (-1.25%)		SINGAPORE 2,742.77 Down 34.21 (-1.24%)
SEOUL 1,760.82 Up 13.47 (+0.77%)		BANGKOK 690.20 Down 7.03 (-1.01%)

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW 11,479.39 -1.55%

S&P 1,278.60 -1.51%

NASDAQ 2,416.98 -35.54

MONEY MARKET

Australian Dollar	1.1515
British Pound	0.5369
Canadian Dollar	1.0644
Chinese Yuan	6.8730
Euro	0.6811
Hong Kong Dollar	7.8122
Indian Rupee	43.5400
Indonesian Rupiah	9,188.0000
Japanese Yen	110.0000
Malaysian Ringgit	3.3385
New Zealand Dollar	1.4127
Philippine Peso	45.4550
Singapore Dollar	1.4143
South Korean Won	1,046.0000
Swiss Franc	1.0991
Taiwan Dollar	31.3590
Thailand Baht	33.9550

In U.S. dollar terms

Source: Associated Press

Nation

Hundreds flee Ariz. canyon hit by flood

PHOENIX (AP)—More than 250 residents and tourists have been evacuated from an American Indian village in a remote, scenic offshoot of the Grand Canyon after weekend flooding that wrecked trails and nearly washed away some river rafters in the rugged gorge.

Helicopters had taken 85 tourists and residents out of the Havasupai tribal village of Supai on Monday, but many people elected to stay, said Gerry Blair, a spokesman for the Coconino County Sheriff's Department. Another 170 people had been evacuated by helicopter Sunday from the village, which is an 8-mile hike away from the nearest parking lot.

Authorities on the ground and in the air were searching for about 11 campers and tourists who remained unaccounted for, though they may have left on their own, Blair said.

There were no reports of injuries. It was unclear whether homes in the village were damaged, or whether the washed-out trails kept people from getting out of Supai Canyon by foot or mule.

Some 400 Havasupai tribe members live year-round in Supai. The area is popular with hikers for its towering blue-green waterfalls downstream from the village.

Thunderstorms dumped 3 to 6 inches of rain Friday and Saturday in northern Arizona and about 2 inches more on Sunday. In Supai Canyon, the deluge was only made worse by the breach of a small earthen dam upstream that is used to provide water for livestock.

The dam isn't a "huge, significant" structure, and its rupture was only one factor in the flooding, Blair said.

Residents of Escobares, Texas are evacuated on Monday, Aug. 18, 2008 after heavy rains flooded the area. AP

Dozens rescued from flooded homes in Texas

McALLEN, Texas (AP)—Emergency workers rescued dozens of trapped residents after torrential rains deluged more than 400 homes in southern Texas and forced the closure of the main road through the Rio Grande Valley.

Officials used any available boat to pluck about 60 people from their flooded homes after more than 13 inches of rain fell on parts of Starr County.

The Department of Public Safety had recommended that U.S. Highway 83 be closed near Rosita, about midway between Roma and Rio Grande City, because a creek was more than a foot above the guardrails, said Starr County Judge Eloy Vera. Not even emergency vehicles were permitted to pass.

"That pretty much isolates Roma from the valley," Vera said. "We're real scared about that."

About 10,000 people live in Roma, a city 210 miles south of San Antonio.

The impact of so much rain was compounded by the ground's saturation from Hurricane Dolly, which hit in late July, said county Emergency Management Coordinator Gene Falcon.

"It's really in a bad situation now," Falcon said.

Jose Garcia, fire and police chief in Roma, said floodwaters had started to recede in the city Monday afternoon, but he was not sure it had seen the last of the rain.

Roma received about 8 inches of rain in three hours early Monday, and water pooled at depths of 6 inches to 4 feet, he said.

The National Weather Service on Monday issued a flash flooding warning for communities including Rosita and Rio Grande City.

A flash flood watch also was in effect for parts of southern Texas through Tuesday night.

Mexican peppers posed problem long before outbreak

FRESNO, Calif. (AP)—Federal inspectors at U.S. border crossings repeatedly turned back filthy, disease-ridden shipments of peppers from Mexico in the months before a salmonella outbreak that sickened 1,400 people was finally traced to Mexican chilies.

Yet no larger action was taken. Food and Drug Administration officials insisted as recently as last week that they were surprised by the outbreak because Mexican peppers had not been spotted as a problem before.

But an Associated Press analysis of FDA records found that peppers and chilies were consistently the top Mexican crop rejected by border inspectors for the last year.

Since January alone, 88 shipments of fresh and dried chilies were turned away. Ten percent were contaminated with salmonella. In the last year, 8 percent of the 158 intercepted shipments of fresh and dried chilies had salmonella. On Friday, Dr. David Acheson, the FDA's food safety chief, told reporters peppers were not a cause for concern before they were implicated in the salmonella outbreak.

"We have not typically seen problems with peppers," Acheson said. "Our import sampling is typically focused on areas where we know we've got problems or we've seen problems in the past, which is why we're now increasing our sampling for peppers."

On Monday, the FDA said Acheson's comment was in relation to outbreaks or illness associated with Mexican peppers, not the rejection of pepper shipments at the borders. Calls to the FDA seeking elaboration were not immediately returned. Still, food-safety advocates question why the agency did not pay more attention to the peppers being stopped at the border and why it took the nation's largest foodborne illness outbreak for the agency to ratchet up its screening of companies known for shipping dirty chilies.

'Cousin killed Ohio baby in microwave'

DAYTON, Ohio (AP)—The cousin of a month-old girl who was burned to death in a microwave told friends that he was responsible for putting her in the oven, a defense attorney said Monday during opening statements in the retrial of the child's mother.

The young relative also told friends that he hadn't been lying about the death when prosecutors later announced a microwave was used in the 2005 death, defense attorney Jon Paul Rion said.

Arnold

"I know who killed that baby," the cousin had said days after the death, Rion told jurors.

China Arnold, 28, is being retried on charges that she killed Paris Talley by burning her in an oven. Arnold has pleaded not guilty to a charge of aggravated murder. She could face the death penalty if convicted.

Judge John Kessler declared a mistrial Feb. 11 after he privately heard testimony from a juvenile who said he was at Arnold's apartment complex the night the baby died.

ACROSS THE NATION

3 Pa. teens ordered to trial in immigrant's death

POTTSVILLE, Pa. (AP)—A judge has ordered three teenagers to stand trial on charges related to the beating death of a Mexican immigrant in a small eastern Pennsylvania town. A judge in Pottsville said Monday that prosecutors have enough evidence to try 17-year-old Colin Walsh and 16-year-old Brandon Piekarsky on counts of third-degree murder and ethnic intimidation. Eighteen-year-old Derrick Donchak has been ordered to stand trial on aggravated assault, ethnic intimidation and other offenses. Luis Ramirez was attacked July 12 when he crossed paths with a group of teens in the town of Shenandoah, about 80 miles northwest of Philadelphia.

Mom to stand trial on Mich. prison escape charge

PLYMOUTH, Mich. (AP)—A California woman who escaped from a Michigan prison more than 30 years ago and remade her life as a suburban mother of three is "extremely uncomfortable" back behind bars and wants to move the case through the courts as quickly as possible, her attorney said Monday. Susan LeFevre, 53, skipped her right to a preliminary examination, which will send her case to trial in Wayne County Circuit Court weeks earlier than anticipated. In 1976, with the help of her grandfather, LeFevre climbed over a barbed-wire fence at a state prison after serving a year of a 10- to 20-year sentence for selling heroin. In April, she was arrested outside her home in an affluent area of San Diego.

Quickly spreading brush fire burns homes in Reno

RENO, Nev. (AP)—A wind-whipped fire quickly crackled through sagebrush and grass on a residential hillside Monday in northern Reno before destroying several homes and forcing evacuations. No serious injuries were reported. The cause wasn't known, but investigators were looking into reports that juveniles ran from the area about the time the blaze broke out. Six homes are a total loss, and a seventh was seriously damaged, fire spokesman Steve Frady said. Responders included more than 50 firefighters and a helicopter. Two firefighters were treated at the scene for exhaustion, and a third was taken to a Reno hospital as a precaution after inhaling smoke, Frady said.

Clintons join in mourning for Ark. party leader

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (AP)—Former President Clinton and others remembered the slain chairman of the Arkansas Democratic Party on Monday for his strength of character and the unity he brought to Democrats in the past two political seasons. Clinton, in brief remarks at Pulaski Heights United Methodist Church, asked the hundreds of mourners to remember the times Bill Gwatney touched their lives. Gwatney, 48, was shot at the state Democratic headquarters on Wednesday by Timothy Dale Johnson, 50, of Searcy. Police shot Johnson to death after a 30-mile car chase. Police do not know why Johnson shot Gwatney.

Judge blocks Detroit council effort to oust mayor

DETROIT (AP)—The City Council's effort to remove Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick at a trial-like hearing was blocked shortly before it would have begun Monday by a judge who ruled that the city charter does not give the council such power. The ruling by Wayne County Circuit Judge Robert Ziolkowski is a rare legal win for Kilpatrick, who has been charged with perjury, misconduct, obstruction of justice and assault. He still could be removed from office through a Sept. 3 misconduct hearing that Gov. Jennifer Granholm is to preside over. Kilpatrick faces 10 felony counts in two criminal cases, one in which he's accused of lying about an affair under oath, another in which he's accused of shoving a sheriff's deputy.

What storm? Keys take Tropical Storm Fay in stride

KEY WEST, Fla. (AP)—Two years since a hurricane last lashed at Florida, many residents were taking a wait-and-see attitude Monday as a strengthening Tropical Storm Fay swept across the Florida Keys and bore down on the Gulf Coast. While tourists caught the last flight out of town and headed out of the storm's path, residents in the carefree Florida Keys were putting up hurricane shutters and checking their generators, but not doing much more. By midafternoon, heavy rains moving ahead of Fay's core were pelting the low-lying Keys island chain. Sustained winds of about 33 mph bent palm trees, and some gusts hit 51 mph.

Asia

Musharraf resigns as Pakistan president

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP)—Pervez Musharraf resigned Monday as the president of Pakistan, avoiding a power struggle with rivals vowing to impeach him that would have deepened the country's political crisis. His exit, announced in an emotional televised address, leaves the politicians who pushed out the stalwart U.S. ally to face the Islamic militants and economic problems gnawing at this nuclear-armed nation. "There is a huge challenge ahead," said Shafqat Mahmood, a former government minister and prominent political analyst. "Now this whole Musharraf excuse is behind us. Now people are going to be focusing on their performance."

Musharraf

Musharraf's departure after nearly nine divisive years in power was widely expected after months of rising pressure for him to leave, culminating in the threat to bring impeachment charges to Parliament this week

A diminished figure since he resigned as army chief in November and found himself cut out of policymaking by the civilian government, the 65-year-old former general left the presidency amid a palpable lack of overt support from either of his main props—the army and Washington

Underlining how the West has already moved on, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice offered "deep gratitude" for Musharraf's decision to join the U.S.-led fight against extremists following the Sept. 11 attacks, saying he "served as a good ally of the United States."

Curfew imposed in southern RP city, Muslim rebel attacks displaced 44K

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Military forces were strengthened Tuesday in the southern Philippines in anticipation of fresh Muslim rebel attacks after a guerrilla rampage killed at least 28 people and displaced about 44,000 townsfolk.

A senior army general said additional security forces were deployed to prevent a repeat of Monday's carnage, when about 200-500 Moro Islamic Liberation Front guerrillas cut off a main highway and raided up to five coastal towns in Lanao del Norte province.

The rebels burned houses and shot or hacked to death civilians and took others captive.

Brig. Gen. Antonio Supnet, head of an army brigade that flushed out the rebels, said eight residents from Kolambugan town were unaccounted for and presumed to have been snatched by the retreating guerrillas.

"We are treating them as criminals and we will go after them anywhere," he told The Associated Press.

AP

Residents from Kauswagan town, Lanao del Norte province, arrive in Iligan City, southern Philippines as they took motor boats to flee their homes when Muslim rebels occupied their area early Monday Aug. 18, 2008.

Kolambugan Mayor Beltran Lumaque said residents "were killed as they were sighted."

The national disaster agency said about 44,000 people were displaced, most of them taking refuge in 19 evacuation centers in nearby Iligan and Ozamiz cities.

Rebel spokesman Eid Kabalu said Monday's attack was carried out by a key commander, Abdullah Macapaar, also known as Bravo, without the knowledge of the group's leadership. He said Tuesday that Bravo will "face the consequence of his action" but did not elaborate.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Typhoon Nuri on track to hit northern Philippines

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—A fast approaching typhoon is on track to make landfall over the northern Philippines within the next 24 hours, the weather bureau reported Tuesday. Typhoon Nuri was packing winds of 75 miles per hour and gusts of up to 93 mph and moving quickly toward the extreme north of the main Luzon island. Nuri was on a path to slam ashore near northeastern Cagayan province, where a storm alert was raised warning fishermen to stay off the sea. The eye of the typhoon is expected to move across the Calayan group of islands and Ilocos Norte province Wednesday, before heading across the South China Sea toward Guangdong in China. Taiwan, meanwhile, issued a typhoon warning Tuesday for ships traveling through its southern waters.

Tens of thousands in Kashmir march to UN offices

SRINAGAR, India (AP)—Tens of thousands of Muslims waving green and black protest flags and chanting militant slogans marched to the United Nations offices in Indian Kashmir's main city on Monday to press their demands that India give up its claim to the region. Hundreds of trucks and buses overflowing with protesters—some sitting on roofs and hanging out of windows—made their way across the Himalayan region to Srinagar for the protest, which separatist leaders said was the largest in two months of unrest. Demonstrators tore down barbed wire barricades that authorities had erected on roads leading to the U.N. offices and chanted "Down with India." Thousands of police and paramilitary forces in riot gear guarded the streets, but no violence was reported.

Afghan militant threat shuts down public ceremony

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—Afghan leaders celebrated Independence Day on Monday with a small ceremony inside a fortified military compound, in marked contrast to the parade and public festivities a year ago and another sign that Taliban militants are bearing down on the government. The top U.S. general in the country issued a rare public warning that militants planned to attack civilian, military and government targets. Only hours earlier, a suicide bomber killed 10 Afghans outside a U.S. base. The unusual warning by Maj. Gen. Jeffrey J. Schloesser said "credible intelligence" indicated militants planned to launch attacks during Monday's celebrations, which were held both in the capital Kabul and around the country. But by nightfall, there had not been any attacks in Kabul where the main ceremony was held.

World

AP

Russian soldiers ride atop of an armored personnel carrier in Khurvaleti, near Gori, Georgia, Monday, Aug. 18, 2008.

Russia claims pullback but forces move the other way

GORI, Georgia (AP)—Russia said Monday it had begun withdrawing from the conflict zone in Georgia, but it held fast to key positions and sent some of its troops in the opposite direction—closer to the Georgian capital.

Russian troops and vehicles roamed freely around the strategically located central city of Gori, Russian forces appeared to blow up the runway at a military base in the western town of Senaki.

■ ■ ■ ■

BRUSSELS, Belgium (AP)—Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said Monday that Russia is playing a "very dangerous game" with the U.S. and its allies and warned that NATO would not allow Moscow to win in Georgia, destabilize Europe or draw a new Iron Curtain through the continent.

On her way to an emergency NATO foreign ministers meeting on the crisis, Rice said the alliance would punish Russia for its invasion of Georgia and deny its ambitions by rebuilding and fully backing Georgia and other Eastern European democracies.

■ ■ ■ ■

There were few signs Russia was following the terms of a cease-fire to end the short war, which has driven tensions between Russia and the West to some of their highest levels since the breakup of the Soviet Union.

In Paris, the French foreign minister said it appeared "we are witnessing the start" of a Russian withdrawal, but warned France would call an emergency meeting of the European Council to talk about consequences for Russia if that was not the case.

But U.S. defense and military officials said they had seen no significant movement yet of Russian troops withdrawing from Georgia.

Gunmen ambush electoral officials in southern Iraq

BAGHDAD (AP)—Masked gunmen ambushed a bus carrying election workers in southern Iraq on Monday, killing two of them including an official known for resisting interference by Shiite religious extremists, authorities said.

Also Monday, a suicide car bomber blasted a police checkpoint in the western city of Ramadi, killing seven policemen, an official said.

The two incidents in widely separated parts of the country illustrate the dangers still facing Iraq despite a sharp decline in violence over the past year.

The attack on the bus occurred when gunmen opened fire as their car passed it in the Abu al-Khasib area south of Basra, police and election officials said. A third election employee was wounded.

The dead included the head of a local government committee preparing for provincial elections, Maath Wahab, and his deputy, Jassim Mohammed, according to Hazim al-Rubaie, director of Basra electoral committee.

Iraq moves against some US-backed Sunni fighters

BAGHDAD (AP)—The Shiite-led government is cracking down on U.S.-backed Sunni Arab fighters in one of Iraq's most turbulent regions, arresting some leaders, disarming dozens of men and banning them from manning checkpoints except alongside official security forces.

The moves in Diyala province reflect mixed views on a movement that began in 2007 among Sunni tribes in western Iraq who revolted against al-Qaida in Iraq and joined the Americans in the fight against the terrorist network.

U.S. officials credit the rise of such groups, known variously as Awakening Councils, Sons of Iraq and Popular Committees, with helping rout al-Qaida.

Child sex archive 'librarian' pleads guilty

LONDON (AP)—The "librarian" of a child porn archive accused of amassing nearly 250,000 images pleaded guilty Monday to sending indecent images of children to subscribers in more than 30 countries.

The judge at Teesside Crown Court in Middlesbrough ordered Philip Thompson, 27, of Stockton-on-Tees in northeastern England, to serve at least three years, nine months in prison.

He pleaded guilty to 16 counts that include making indecent photographs of children, distributing indecent photographs of children, taking indecent photographs of children, possessing child abuse images and causing or inciting a child under 13 to engage in sexual activity.

Officials say he controlled the archive from two computers in his mother's house. Police classified more than 3,000 of the images as showing the most serious forms of child sex abuse.

Police have identified 360 people worldwide suspected of involvement in the ring; 50 have been arrested in Britain.

Campus Life

College presidents seek debate on drinking age

By JUSTIN POPE
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

Collegepresidents from about 100 of the nation's best-known universities, including Duke, Dartmouth and Ohio State, are calling on lawmakers to consider lowering the drinking age from 21 to 18, saying current laws actually encourage dangerous binge drinking on campus.

The movement called the Amethyst Initiative began quietly recruiting presidents more than a year ago to provoke national debate about the drinking age.

"This is a law that is routinely evaded," said John McCardell, former president of Middlebury College in Vermont who started the organization. "It is a law that the people at whom it is directed believe is unjust and unfair and discriminatory."

Other prominent schools in the group include Syracuse, Tufts, Colgate, Kenyon and Morehouse.

But even before the presidents begin the public phase of their efforts, which may include publishing newspaper ads in the coming weeks, they are already facing sharp criticism. Mothers Against Drunk Driving says lowering the drinking age would lead to more fatal car crashes. It accuses the presidents of misrepresenting science and looking for an easy way out of an inconvenient problem. MADD officials are even urging parents to think carefully about the safety of colleges whose presidents have signed on.

"It's very clear the 21-year-old drinking age will not be enforced at those campuses," said Laura Dean-Mooney, national president of MADD.

Both sides agree alcohol abuse by college students is a huge problem.

Research has found more than 40 percent of college students reported at least one symptom of alcohol abuse or dependance. One study has estimated more than 500,000 full-time students at four-year colleges suffer injuries each year related in some way to drinking, and about 1,700 die in such accidents.

A recent Associated Press analysis of federal records found that 157 college-age people, 18 to 23, drank themselves to death from 1999 through 2005.

Moana Jagasia, a Duke University sophomore from Singapore, where the drinking age is lower, said reducing the age in the U.S. could be helpful.

"There isn't that much difference in maturity between 21 and 18," she said. "If the age is younger, you're getting exposed to it at a younger age, and you don't freak out when you get to campus."

McCardell's group takes its name from ancient Greece, where the purple gemstone amethyst was widely believed to ward off drunkenness if used in drinking vessels and jewelry. He said college students will drink no matter what, but do so more dangerously when it's illegal.

The statement the presidents have signed avoids calling explicitly for a younger drinking age. Rather, it seeks "an informed and dispassionate debate" over the issue and the federal highway law that made 21 the de facto national drinking age by denying money to any state that bucks the trend.

But the statement makes clear the signers think the current law isn't working, citing a "culture of dangerous, clandestine binge-drinking," and noting that while adults under 21 can vote and enlist in the military, they "are told they are not mature enough to have a beer." Furthermore, "by choosing to use fake IDs, students make ethical compromises that erode respect for the law."

"I'm not sure where the dialogue will lead, but it's an important topic to American families and it deserves a straightforward dialogue," said William Trout, president of Rhodes College in Memphis, Tenn., who has signed the statement.

But some other college administrators sharply disagree that lowering the drinking age would help. University of Miami President Donna Shalala, who served as secretary of health and human services under President Clinton, declined to sign.

"I remember college campuses when we had 18-year-old drinking ages, and I honestly believe we've made some progress," Shalala said in a telephone interview. "To just shift it back down to the high schools makes no sense at all."

McCardell claims that his experiences as a president and a parent, as well as a historian studying Prohibition, have persuaded him the drinking age isn't working.

But critics say McCardell has badly misrepresented the research by suggesting that the decision to raise the drinking age from 18 to 21 may not have saved lives.

In fact, MADD CEO Chuck Hurley said, nearly all peer-reviewed studies looking at the change showed raising the drinking age reduced drunk-driving deaths. A survey of research from the U.S. and other countries by the Centers for Disease Control and others reached the same conclusion.

College presidents from about 100 of the nation's best-known universities, including Duke, Dartmouth and Ohio State, are calling on lawmakers to consider lowering the drinking age from 21 to 18, saying current laws actually encourage dangerous binge drinking on campus.

McCardell cites the work of Alexander Wagenaar, a University of Florida epidemiologist and expert on how changes in the drinking age affect safety. But Wagenaar himself sides with MADD in the debate.

The college presidents "see a problem of drinking on college campuses, and they don't want to deal with it," Wagenaar said in a telephone interview. "It's really unfortunate, but the science is very clear."

Another scholar who has extensively researched college binge-drinking also criticized the presidents' initiative.

"I understand why colleges are doing it, because it splits their students, and they like to treat them all alike rather than having to card some of them. It's a nuisance to them," said Henry Wechsler of the Harvard School of Public Health.

But, "I wish these college presidents sat around and tried to work out ways to deal with the problem on their campus rather than try to eliminate the problem by defining it out of existence," he said.

Duke faced accusations of ignoring the heavy drinking that formed the backdrop of 2006 rape allegations against three lacrosse players. The rape allegations proved to be a hoax, but the alcohol-fueled party was never disputed.

Duke senior Wey Ruepten said university officials should accept the reality that students are going to drink and give them the responsibility that comes with alcohol.

"If you treat students like children, they're going to act like children," he said.

Duke President Richard Brodhead declined an interview request. But he wrote in a statement on the Amethyst Initiative's Web site that the 21-year-old drinking age "pushes drinking into hiding, heightening its risks." It also prevents school officials "from addressing drinking with students as an issue of responsible choice."

Hurley, of MADD, has a different take on the presidents.

"They're waving the white flag," he said.

The greening of the dorm room is under way.

College Greening: Eco 101

By JURA KONCIUS
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

The greening of the dorm room is under way. As college students move into their new homes in the coming weeks, they'll be mixing organic cotton towels and abaca fiber hampers with the usual plastic shower caddies and guitars.

This year there's a noticeable trend toward eco-friendly lifestyles on campus, although some environmentalists scorn the idea of shopping your way out of global warming. Because creating a home base in a college dorm requires a bit of consumption, retailers have rolled out hundreds of green products to appeal to eco-sensitive college kids.

Students this year will be spending about $600 each for back-to-college products, according to a survey by the National Retail Federation, down 7 percent from 2007, in part because of a faltering economy and $50,000 annual tuition, room and board at some private colleges and universities.

In many cases, eco-friendly merchandise costs more, but retailers are hoping committed students will crunch budgets to fit in some sustainable style.

Being green, of course, isn't all about what you buy; it's also what you don't buy. Students are famous for creatively reusing castoff chairs and dumpster sofas. Daily, they scour Craigslist and Freecycle for stuff that can be repurposed. The Class of 2012 shouldn't think it is part of the only green generation in history. In the 1980s, my brother took old shoes he found on the street in front of his dorm at Northeastern University and turned them into planters.

Life & Style

TakeCare Asia: A toast to 35 years...

By MARCONI CALINDAS
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

GUAM—The Sheraton Laguna Guam Resort's Ocean Sirena Ballroom was a sight to see last Friday night as TakeCare Asia, a privately held consumer health organization based in Guam, celebrated its 35th anniversary.

Over 350 employees and guests attended the event, including employees and crew from satellite offices in Asia and continental U.S., as well as FHP Health Center on Saipan, which sent at least nine of its employees.

TakeCare's executive vice-president and chief financial officer Don H. Fetherman opened the night, congratulating the company and its high-performing agents or employees. President Joseph Husslein also provided congratulatory remarks for the entire company.

Highlights of the night included the recognition of TakeCare's long-term and loyal employee Liz Hines. Hines has been with the company for over 20 years.

Guam Sen. Ray Tenorio also went up on stage and presented a Senate resolution recognizing TakeCare's achievement in Asia-Pacific. The night ended with a mini-concert from the renowned Hawaiian duo Cecilio and Kapono.

Customer Care guru Glenn Mitchell hosted the event.

According to the company, TakeCare has provided medical and dental health care coverage to 45,000 members through its staff of over 350 local employees, making it one of the Island's largest health plan and health care services company. TakeCare has been offering a wide range of health plans designed specifically to meet the needs of every individual with access to over 100 primary and specialty providers on island.

MARCONI CALINDAS

TakeCare Guam staff pose for a picture during the event held at the Sheraton Laguna Guam Resort in Guam.

TakeCare's executive vice-president and chief financial officer Don H. Fetherman opens the event with congratulatory remarks.

MARCONI CALINDAS

MARCONI CALINDAS

TakeCare (FHP) Health Center Saipan employees pose for souvenir group photo.

Tan Holdings' George Chiu, left, congratulates TakeCare president Joseph Husslein.

MARCONI CALINDAS

MARCONI CALINDAS

TakeCare Guam staff Thomas Conway play Janken-Po with Elle Lanquin during a group activity.

MARCONI CALINDAS

Over 350 employees and guests celebrate TakeCare's 35th Anniversary celebration at the Sheraton Laguna Guam Resort.

MARCONI CALINDAS

TakeCare Saipan staff play Janken-Po with a Guam employee during a group activity.

Obama book falls victim to booksellers' rivalry

NEW YORK (AP)—A new book about Sen. Barack Obama has intensified a rivalry between two powerful competitors: Barnes & Noble Inc. and Amazon.com.

Chelsea Green Publishing, a small, liberal publisher based in Vermont, is releasing Robert Kuttner's "Obama's Challenge," a call for Obama to enact a bold, progressive economic agenda. It plans to distribute copies at next week's Democratic National Convention, where Obama is expected to get the party's presidential nomination.

Angering both Barnes & Noble and independent sellers, the publisher also will distribute coupons that can be redeemed exclusively through Amazon.com's BookSurge, a "print-on-demand" service that through digital technology enables books to be printed in small quantities.

According to Chelsea Green, several independent stores complained, withdrew their orders and even threatened to boycott other Chelsea Green books. In an open letter to booksellers, Chelsea Green president Margo Baldwin defended her decision.

"This is about a publisher's commitment to its author to get one of a very few pro-Obama books out into the marketplace in the shortest amount of time," she said, noting that its 75,000 first printing was a record for Chelsea Green.

But the biggest response came from Barnes & Noble, which had ordered several thousand copies. It told Chelsea Green it would not stock "Obama's Challenge," but only make it available through special orders or its Web site, http://www.bn.com .

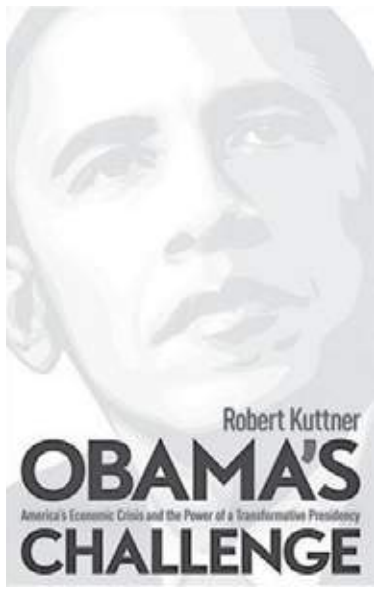
Chelsea Green restricted the book's availability by giving one company a two-week exclusive, Barnes & Noble spokeswoman Mary Ellen Keating said Monday.

"Our initial order was based on the book being available to all booksellers simultaneously—an even playing field," she said.

Baldwin said of Barnes & Noble, "They are not going to bully us and the book will be a huge success in spite of their boycott."

A rival chain, Borders Group Inc., will continue stocking the book.

Barnes & Noble's action comes at a time when the superstore chain, and all booksellers, face increasing competition from Amazon.com, which has grown its market share steadily in recent years as book sales overall were flat. The online seller told The Associated Press recently that it was talking to publishers about having books sold exclusively through its Kindle e-book reader.



Barnes & Noble itself has often been criticized for allegedly unfair business practices. Independent booksellers alleged for years that Barnes & Noble and Borders were receiving illegal discounts from publishers. The chains were eventually sued and the case was settled in 2001, with Barnes & Noble and Borders agreeing to pay $4.7 million, far less than the independents' legal costs.

Britain's spy service seeking to hire gays

By JENNIFER QUINN
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

LONDON (AP)—Britain's domestic spy agency wants gay recruits to know: It's time to come out of the closet.

After shunning them for decades over worries of blackmail, MI5 is now asking gay and lesbian people to consider a career as a spy, promising the chance to fight terrorists, protect their country - and earn a decent salary, plus benefits.

As part of an ongoing recruitment drive, MI5 is already wooing women, minorities and people with language skills. The fact that they're now reaching out to Britain's gay community is long overdue, said Peter Tatchell, a London-based gay rights activist.

ON THE NET
http://www.mi5.gov.uk
http://www.stonewall.org.uk

"Until a decade ago, gay people were seen as a security threat, and as recently as two decades ago, they were being witch hunted and sacked from the security services," he said Monday.

"It was part of the Cold War mentality that saw security threats, traitors, and spies everywhere," he said. "Gay people were regarded as vulnerable to blackmail, even if they were open and out about their sexuality."

Britain had some infamous gay agents during that era, such as Guy Burgess and Anthony Blunt. The two men were caught spying for the Soviet Union.

The spy agency is shaking off its clubby image and becoming more representative of the community it serves, said Ben Summerskill, chief executive officer the gay rights group Stonewall, which publishes a job hunting guide that includes the spy agency as a prospective employer.

"My recent experience of them is that they're not John le Carre, Graham Greene—it's not that sort of tableau anymore," Summerskill said Monday.

Stonewall also is working with MI5 to create a workplace environment that is supportive of gay people.

Currently, MI5 has about 3,500 staff, twice what it had in 2001. The new drive comes two years after MI5 began publicly targeting women for recruitment, placing posters in gyms and advertisements in sports magazines that featured a black woman.

MI6, which collects Britain's foreign intelligence, also is looking for new hires, and in particular is encouraging applications from women and minorities.

According to MI5's Web site, intelligence officers earn a starting salary of about 23,000 pounds (US$45,000) plus benefits. Applicants have to be British citizens, and must pass a lengthy vetting process.

"As an intelligence officer at MI5, you'll be faced with some of the most challenging issues affecting national security today," the site says. "The decisions you make will play a major part in our efforts to counterterrorism, espionage, the spread of weapons of mass destruction and in protecting the U.K.'s critical national infrastructure."

Garry Hindle, the head of security and counterintelligence at the Royal United Services Institute for Defense and Security Studies, said MI5's inclusion in the gay and lesbian job guide is about inclusion, but it's also about image.

"They're trying to portray themselves as an open, inclusive organization that's working for the good of the community," Hindle said. But "it does need diverse members of society to be able to access the diverse members of society that they may have interest in."

The agency would say only that "the service seeks to reflect the broad range of U.K. society which it serves."

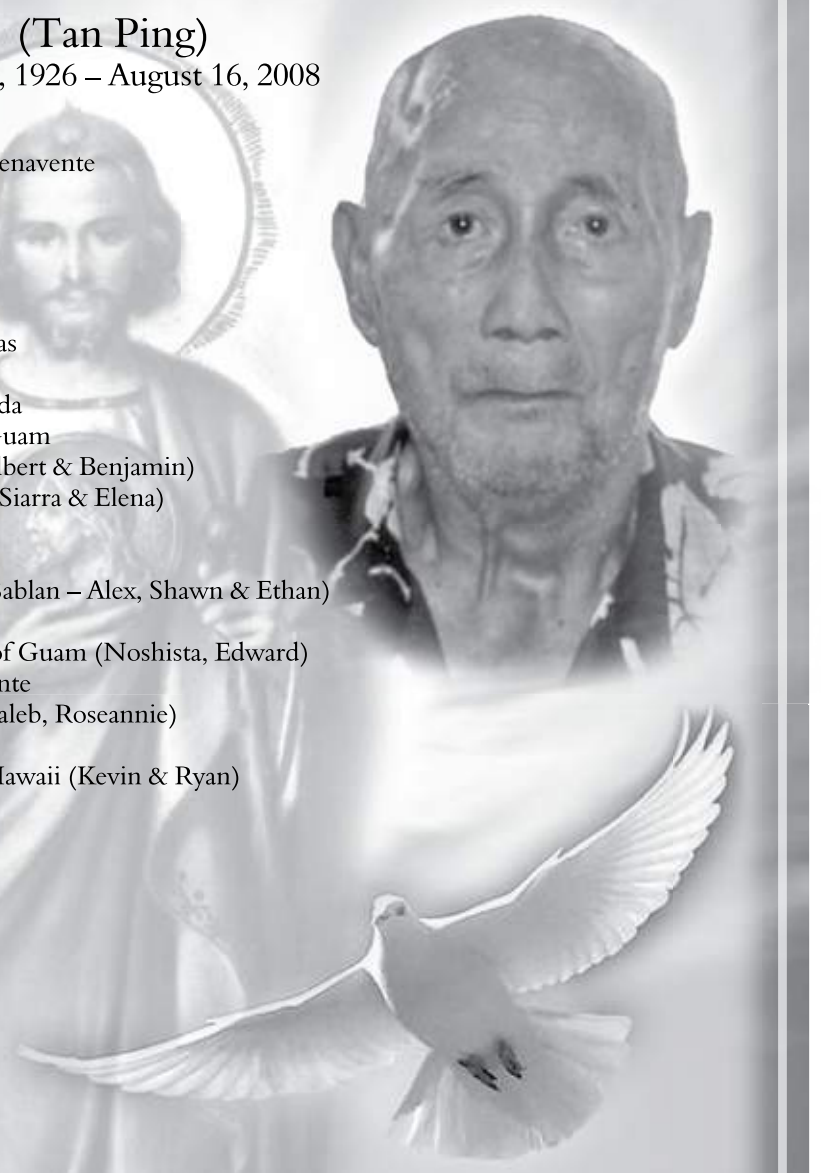
Available jobs include translators, computer specialists and surveillance officers.

DEATH & FUNERAL ANNOUNCEMENT

†Jose Arriola Benavente

(Tan Ping)

July 28, 1926 – August 16, 2008



Predeceased by Parents & In-laws:
†Ignacio Villagomez & †Rita Arriola Benavente
†Jose & †Luisa Terlaje Kogure

Survived by:
Wife: **Martina Kogure Benavente**
Children:
Rita B. & Pedro T. Champaco of Texas
(Pete Eugene, & Joe Vince)
David & Helen C. Benavente of Florida
Gemma B. & Albert A. Johnston of Guam
(Nadine J. & Vincent Borja - Albert & Benjamin)
(Maribeth J. & Joey Camacho - Siarra & Elena)
(Claressa Johnston)
John & Rosie G. Benavente of Guam
(Derrick Benavente & Tamara Sablan – Alex, Shawn & Ethan)
(Joseph John)
Ignacio & Anna Marie L. Benavente of Guam (Noshista, Edward)
Estanislao & Annie Marie U. Benavente
(Stanly & Jessica Benavente – Caleb, Roseannie)
(Joshua Roke Benavente)
Fernando & Agnes V. Benavente of Hawaii (Kevin & Ryan)

Brothers & Sisters & In-laws:
†Trinidad A. Benavente & Family
Dolores A. Benavente & Family
Eluterio A. Benavente & Family
Sr. Veronica A. Benavente
Irminia B. Cox & Family
Estanislao A. Benavente & Family
Maria B. Atalig & Family
Luis A. Benavente & Family
†Magdalena T. Pangelinan & Family
†Maria K. Arriola & Family
†Ana T. Kogure & Family
†Joaquin T. Kogure
†Jesus T. Kogure

Additionally survived by numerous Aunties, Uncles, Cousins, Nieces & Nephews, God-Children and Friends.

Holy Eucharist is being offered at St. Jude Church at 6:00pm followed by the Holy Rosary until Friday August 22nd, 2008. His remains will be escorted from CHC Chapel on Saturday August 23rd, 2008 at 7:00am to Mt. Carmel Cathedral for Responso, Holy Rosary, viewing. Celebration of the Eucharist will be offered the same day at 11:00am followed by internment on his final resting place at Mt. Carmel Cemetery.

We extend our sincerest humble gratitude to you all for your prayers and love.

From Martina Kogure Benavente (Nan Tinang) and Children and Families.

Malaysia's Islamists want Lavigne concert canceled

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—Malaysia's Islamic opposition party has urged the government to cancel a concert by Avril Lavigne, saying the Canadian singer's on-stage moves are "too sexy," an official said Monday.

Lavigne, a Grammy-nominated rock singer who burst to fame with her 2002 debut album "Let's Go," plans to start her monthlong Asia tour with a performance in Kuala Lumpur on Aug. 29.

The youth wing of the Pan-Malaysian Islamic Party said Lavigne's concert would promote wrong values ahead of Malaysia's Aug. 31 independence day.

"It is considered too sexy for us. ... It's not good for viewers in Malaysia," said Kamarulzaman Mohamed, a party official. "We don't want our people, our teenagers, influenced by their performance. We want clean artists, artists that are good role models."

Kamarulzaman said he sent a protest letter to the Culture, Arts and Heritage Ministry and the Kuala Lumpur mayor last week, calling for the concert to be canceled.

An official from the Culture Ministry's department that vets all foreign artists said the government has not given permission for the concert yet. The department is to meet Tuesday to decide on the organizer's application, which was received last week.

The official declined to be named because she is not authorized to make public statements.

A spokesman for the concert's organizer, Galaxy Group, denied that Lavigne's show had any "negative elements."

The spokesman, who declined to be named citing protocol, said his company was confident of receiving the permit as feedback from authorities so far had been "very positive."

Malaysia requires all performers to wear clothes without obscene or drug-related images and be covered from chest to knees. They must also refrain from jumping, shouting, hugging and kissing on stage.

Still, members of PAS and other conservative Muslims often protest Western and even Malaysian music shows that they deem to be inappropriate.

Last year, pop singer Gwen Stefani made what she called "a major sacrifice" by donning clothes that revealed little skin at a performance here.

Also last year, Christina Aguilera skipped Malaysia during an Asian tour that included neighboring Singapore, Thailand and the Philippines, while R&B superstar Beyonce scratched a planned concert here, moving it to Indonesia.

A Pussycat Dolls concert in 2006 was fined 10,000 ringgit (US$2,857) after the U.S. girl group was accused of flouting decency regulations.

AP

In this March 30, 2008 file photo, Avril Lavigne performs at the Izod Center in East Rutherford, N.J.

'CSI' gets its man: Fishburne joins cast

LOS ANGELES (AP)—"CSI: Crime Scene Investigation" has solved the mystery of who will replace departing CBS series star William Petersen: It's Laurence Fishburne.

Fishburne, an Emmy and Tony winner, will be introduced in the ninth episode of the upcoming 10th season, the network told The Associated Press on Monday. He'll play a forensics scientist with a secret.

Fishburne is a "CSI" newcomer in more ways than one. Asked if he's a fan, he told a teleconference Monday that he was embarrassed to admit he'd never watched before he was approached by producers

"But I am now," he said. He screened past episodes that were engaging and "kind of dark and moody, like the work I've been involved in," he said. "Wow, this will work," Fishburne recalled thinking.

Fishburne

He was their top choice, said executive producers Carol Mendelsohn and Naren Shankar, with a deeply intelligent approach to his work that matches the drama's spirit.

This is the first ongoing series role for the in-demand film and stage actor since, improbably enough, he played Cowboy Curtis on "Pee-wee's Playhouse" in the late 1980s. He's not stepping away from movies with "CSI," Fishburne said, but embarking on a "welcome change."

Fishburne will play a college lecturer and former pathologist who is focused on why people commit acts of violence. The character is nameless for now but has been dubbed "The Professor."

The air date for Petersen's final episode has yet to be determined but will be early next year. Petersen has been with the series since it debuted in fall 2000 and will remain a "CSI" executive producer, the network said.

In this image released by ABC, Beth Ehlers, who stars as U.S. Army Lt. Taylor Thompson on the ABC daytime series, "All My Children," is shown.

AP

Role of a lifetime: Iraq vet sought for soap opera role

LOS ANGELES (AP)—An open casting call for "All My Children" is far from business as usual: The soap opera is seeking an Iraq war veteran to play an injured veteran.

The ABC daytime show has created a romantic story line to combine entertainment and a window into the challenges faced after combat, said executive producer Julie Hanan Carruthers.

"All My Children" has launched a broad search to fill the role, inviting veterans to contact the show's New York casting director. The series also is working with a veterans' support group, USA Cares, as well as the military.

"It will make it such a heightened experience for the audience and for us ... to cast a real-life soldier, a veteran, and bring him into our created drama," Carruthers said.

The veteran-turned-actor will play the character of Brot, a key figure in a plot that's already under way and involves a visitor to fictional Pine Valley, Army Lt. Taylor Thompson (Beth Ehlers).

Taylor, who was stationed in Iraq and is on medical leave, has come to town to deliver medals to fellow soldier Dr. Frankie Hubbard (Cornelius Smith Jr.). But it's Brot, the soldier and lover she believes died in combat, who's on her mind.

Brot, however, survived. Unwilling to involve Taylor in his suffering, he's allowed her to think he's dead.

Their story will begin unfolding when the right veteran is found for the part, Carruthers said. The casting call isn't limited to those who were wounded in the war, an ABC spokesman said.

But the role will shaped around a veteran's experience, possibly including a war-caused disability, Carruthers said.

"It's a very delicate subject to begin with. There's so much about the individual person that's going to help us create the character, and whatever they bring and whatever their challenge is will be fit into the story," she said.

The show has woven potentially controversial events and themes into drama before, from the Vietnam War to, in recent years, a plot involving a lesbian mother who was forced to give up her daughter.

Friends, family pay tribute to soul singer Isaac Hayes

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP)—The weight of soul singer Isaac Hayes' legacy in Memphis could be measured in a single remark at his memorial service Monday.

"What would you say if you were flying into Memphis and they said you are about to land at Isaac Hayes International Airport," U.S. Rep. Steve Cohen asked, drawing a huge burst of applause during a four-hour service of music, speakers and video clips.

Cohen, who represented Hayes' area of Memphis, said the city should celebrate Hayes, an architect of the Memphis sound, as it celebrates Elvis Presley.

"He is a world person who the world will miss," Cohen said.

The deep-voiced soul singer died Aug. 10 after he was found unconscious at his Memphis residence. No autopsy was performed, but paperwork filed by Hayes' family doctor, David Kraus, lists the cause of death as a stroke.

About 3,000 fans and friends attended the service. They remembered Hayes for his music and his movies and for his humanitarian work that included building a school in Ghana.

"He was a lovely man, always involved with causes," the Rev. Jesse Jackson said before the service. "Literacy, civil rights. He was always there, and that's why we're all here for him."

Jackson was among the speakers that included Al Sharpton and actresses and fellow scientologists Anne Archer and Kelly Preston.

Applegate says she is 100 percent cancer free

NEW YORK (AP)—Christina Applegate says she has a clean bill of health after undergoing treatment for breast cancer. "I'm clear," Applegate tells ABC News' "Good Morning America" in an interview airing Tuesday. "Absolutely 100 percent clear and clean. It did not spread. They got everything out, so I'm definitely not going to die from breast cancer."

Applegate's interview with "GMA" was taped Monday.

The actress' publicist, Ame Van Iden, announced earlier this month that Applegate was being treated for the disease after it was detected through a doctor-ordered MRI.

"I was so mad," she says in the "GMA" interview when she first heard the news. "I was just shaking and—and then also immediately, I had to go into ... `take-care-of-business-mode,' which was ... I asked them, `What do I do now? What—what is it that I do? I get a doctor, I get a surgeon, I get an oncologist? What do I do?'"

AP

In this Jan. 27, 2008 file photo, Christina Applegate is shown at the 14th Annual Screen Actors Guild Awards in Los Angeles.

Applegate, 36, says she "immediately made those appointments and immediately called around for ... someone to start teaching me how to live macrobiotically." She was referring to following a healthy diet of fish, grains, beans and vegetables, and avoiding processed foods.

The actress, whose mother battled breast cancer, says she began getting mammograms at the age of 30.

Applegate is scheduled to appear on a one-hour TV special, "Stand Up to Cancer," to be aired on ABC, CBS and NBC on Sept. 5 to raise funds for cancer research.

She has been nominated for an Emmy and a Golden Globe for the ABC show "Samantha Who?", in which she plays a woman who wakes from a coma with no memory of who she is.

Donnie Wahlberg and wife file for divorce

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Donnie Wahlberg and his wife are calling it quits after nearly nine years of marriage. Wahlberg and his wife, Kim Fey Wahlberg, each filed for divorce last Wednesday in separate counties in the Los Angeles area, court records show.

Kim Wahlberg cited "irreconcilable differences" in her filings in Los Angeles Superior Court. Donnie Wahlberg's petition was filed in Ventura County.

The couple were married in August 1999 and separated earlier this year.

The move comes as Wahlberg, 39, prepares to tour with a reunited New Kids on the Block and appears on the big screen in "Righteous Kill," which will be released on Sept. 12.

Producer critically injured after car hits her

MALIBU, Calif. (AP)—Authorities say Hollywood producer and talent manager Joan Hyler was in critical condition after she was hit by a car Friday night on Pacific Coast Highway in Malibu, California.

Hyler, who has represented Bob Dylan and Madonna and is a former president of the nonprofit Women in Film, was hit as she was heading to a home in the area.

In a posting on the Web site of UCLA Medical Center, her family says she sustained "severe and multiple injuries."

Filings: Spears' custody fight with K-Fed costly

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Britney Spears' recently resolved custody dispute with ex-husband Kevin Federline wasn't just messy, it was expensive. Court documents show legal bills submitted on behalf of two law firms who represented Spears total more than $466,000. That's on top of the $250,000 the 26-year-old pop singer has agreed to pay Federline's attorneys.

The largest bill comes from attorney Stacy D. Phillips, who says in court filings that she is owed nearly $407,000 for four months of work. Phillips claims she has written off another $125,000 in fees.

Attorney Laura Wasser, who took over the case in June and negotiated an agreement between Federline and Spears' camp that allows the singer more time with her young sons, is seeking $60,000. She worked on the case nearly two months.

Federline retains full custody of the children, but Spears has some overnight visits.

Spears and Federline were married in 2004 and completed their divorce last July. She pays him $20,000 a month under an agreement finalized in July.

Phillips claims in court documents the case was made more complicated because Spears is under the temporary conservatorship of her father, James. He took control of his daughter's personal and financial affairs after a series of high-profile incidents of erratic behavior and two hospitalizations.

What are TV's most memorable moments? You decide

AP

This undated file photo, provided by HBO, shows some of the cast from "The Sopranos" during location filming in Kearny, N.J. at the site of a fictional pork store called Satriale's.

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The most memorable moments in television history will be revealed during the 60th Primetime Emmy Awards next month, and it's up to voters to decide which bits should take top honors.

Forty "moments"—20 dramatic and 20 comedic—are in the running. Comedy contenders include "M-A-S-H," "Mork & Mindy," "Sex and the City" and "The Cosby Show," while "Buffy the Vampire Slayer," "Miami Vice," "Moonlighting" and "The Sopranos" are among the drama candidates.

The television academy and Emmy show producers came up with the competition and the contenders in honor of the 60th annual presentation of the Emmy Awards. The Emmy telecast will also feature celebrities performing some of TV's most memorable lines over the past 60 years.

"It's a perfect opportunity both to celebrate the history of television and at the same time introduce new generations to some of the medium's most important events," Emmys executive producer Ken Ehrlich said in a statement Monday.

Fans can watch clips and vote for their favorite moments online until Sept. 15.

Hypochondriac's sad song becomes an irritating refrain

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: How do you deal with a hypochondriac? My brothers and I lost our dear mother to cancer when we were in our teens. Daddy has recently been diagnosed with a pernicious form of melanoma, which has a low survival rate.

Our father has been married to his second wife, "Doris," for 20 years. Doris is a textbook hypochondriac. She denies it, of course, and insists that her health is bad. So bad, in fact, that she didn't see the irony of telling my sister-in-law, who was undergoing chemotherapy for lymphoma, that "no one understands what it's like to live with a chronic condition." Doris was referring to her allergies!

Now Daddy is battling cancer. He and Doris came to visit his three children and multiple grandchildren. Doris talked about her head cold the entire visit, and our time with Daddy was cut short because she needed to be driven back to the hotel. (No one else could detect her symptoms.)

I'm sure Doris loves my father, and after 20 years of marriage, they're certainly used to each other. But now that Daddy is facing death, I'm having trouble supporting Doris' emotional needs because her hypochondria is so irritating. Still, Dad wouldn't want us to abandon his second wife, despite her psychosomatic quirks. What do you suggest?

NEEDS HELP UP NORTH

DEAR NEEDS HELP: You can try talking Doris out of her hypochondria until you're blue in the face, but it will only make her try harder to convince you that she's sick -- so stop trying. Instead, every time you see her, tell her she looks TERRIBLE; you've never seen her look worse. It's what she's "dying" to hear, and she'll love you for it!

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My women friends have all known each other more than 25 years. One of our group, "Dottie," (age 76) was a very astute businesswoman when she worked with us years ago before we all retired.

About three years ago, Dottie began behaving oddly. She couldn't remember what she ordered at lunch in a restaurant and lied to us about bizarre things. (She claimed her doctor made a house call in the middle of the night and gave her an IV.) She also became argumentative. Recently she has withdrawn from our group dates.

Now she no longer answers her phone and, on the rare occasion that one of us has gotten hold of her and offered to come over, she refused to answer the door.

Dottie is quite wealthy. She likes to drink at her neighborhood bar every night, and once when one of us called, we heard a man in the background saying, "That's enough. Hang up now," which she did.

We're concerned because Dottie has no family, and there's no one to contact. We're worried about her. What options do we have? Is there anyone we can contact in order to help her?

WORRIED IN NEW YORK

DEAR WORRIED: Because Dottie appears to have become not only forgetful and delusional but also reclusive, you have reason to be worried. While her entertaining a male guest—or having a boyfriend—is a good sign, when that person takes over her life and isolates her, that's another cause for concern.

Because Dottie has no family, contact your nearest Area Agency on Aging (it's listed in the phone directory) or the Department of Social Services, and tell them what's going on. A social worker should be able to determine if your friend is in trouble, and get her the help she needs if she is.

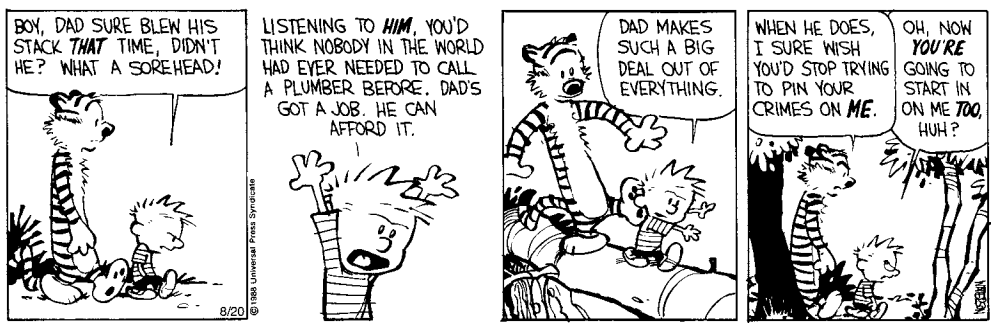
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $12 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


BOY, DAD SURE BLEW HIS STACK THAT TIME, DIDN'T HE? WHAT A SOREHEAD!
LISTENING TO HIM, YOU'D THINK NOBODY IN THE WORLD HAD EVER NEEDED TO CALL A PLUMBER BEFORE. DAD'S GOT A JOB. HE CAN AFFORD IT.
DAD MAKES SUCH A BIG DEAL OUT OF EVERYTHING.
WHEN HE DOES, I SURE WISH YOU'D STOP TRYING TO PIN YOUR CRIMES ON ME.
OH, NOW YOU'RE GOING TO START IN ON ME TOO, HUH?
8/20
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Garfield®

By Jim Davis

AHEM
I AM NOT TOO FAT!
AND I AM NOT SENSITIVE ABOUT MY WEIGHT!
JIM DAVIS 8-20
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www.garfield.com
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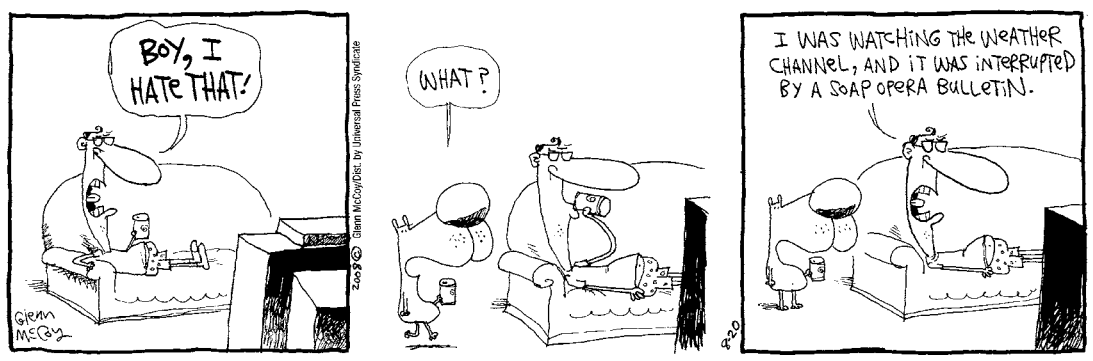
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


BOY, I HATE THAT!
WHAT?
I WAS WATCHING THE WEATHER CHANNEL, AND IT WAS INTERRUPTED BY A SOAP OPERA BULLETIN.
8/20
Glenn McCoy/Dist. by Universal Press Syndicate
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CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Slender
5 Clothing protector
8 Russian city
12 Helper
13 Rowing tool
14 Satyrlike creature
15 Pennsylvania, the — State
17 Run away
18 The Bushes, to Henry Hager
19 Add carbon dioxide
21 Perch
22 "Let's Make a Deal" option
23 Bando of baseball lore
26 Fresh
28 Unadorned
31 Support
33 Roulette bet
35 "Whip It" group
36 Capital of Ghana
38 "The Price Is Right" guess
40 Archer's bow wood
41 Money, slangily
43 Moment
45 Some alcohols
47 Reasons
51 Algonquian language
52 Morgan of "Super Size Me"
54 Gardener, at times
55 Dawn goddess
56 Actress Spelling
57 Probability
58 Greek consonants
59 Poker variety

DOWN
1 H.H. Munro's pseudonym
2 Borrower's burden
3 Pastoral piece
4 Small plateaus
5 Vaccine supplement
6 Author Fleming
7 Staff of life
8 ATV's place
9 Nonsense
10 Fat
11 Leg part
16 Doppelganger
20 A billion years
23 Resort
24 Joan of —
25 Big name in aircraft
27 Symbol of intrigue
29 Leading lady?
30 NASDAQ counterpart
32 Bedtime recitations
34 Talk about
37 Every iota
39 Cherished
42 English county
44 Devoted groups
45 Reverberate
46 Trampled
48 Chimney dust
49 Beige
50 Pallet
53 Luau bowlful

Solution time: 21 mins.

B	A	L	D	■	S	K	Y	■	V	A	M	P
E	S	A	U	■	T	I	E	■	E	V	I	L
V	E	R	O	N	I	C	A	■	R	I	C	O
Y	A	K	■	E	L	K	■	J	A	D	E	D
■	■	■	V	E	T	■	D	O	C	■	■	■
E	M	B	E	D	■	M	O	T	I	O	N	S
L	E	E	R	■	J	U	G	■	O	R	E	O
S	W	A	M	P	E	D	■	H	U	B	B	Y
■	■	■	O	U	T	■	Y	E	S	■	■	■
S	L	I	N	G	■	P	A	R	■	E	G	O
T	O	O	T	■	V	E	R	B	A	T	I	M
A	N	T	E	■	I	O	N	■	M	A	G	I
B	E	A	R	■	E	N	S	■	P	S	S	T

Yesterday's answer 8-20

1	2	3	4	■	5	6	7	■	8	9	10	11
12				■	13			■	14			
15				16				■	17			
18						■	19	20				
■	■	■	21			■	22				■	■
23	24	25	■	26		27	■	28			29	30
31			32	■	33		34	■	35			
36				37	■	38		39	■	40		
■	■	41			42	■	43		44	■	■	■
45	46					■	47			48	49	50
51				■	52	53						
54				■	55			■	56			
57				■	58			■	59			

STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Fred Durst, 38; James Marsters, 46; Connie Chung, 62; Isaac Hayes, 66

Happy Birthday: If you try to take on too much, you will not accomplish all you set out to do. Pick and choose what's most important. Your ability to work hard and your fine eye for detail will help you win out in the end. You can surpass whatever competition you come up against as long as you don't overload your plate. Your numbers 10, 17, 28, 32, 39, 46

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Follow your heart if you want to find your niche. It's not always about the money but also about justification and taking a path that suits your personality and skills. An opportunity is apparent. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): A geographical move will lead to a better job and a higher income. A new love connection can be made or a closer union developed with the person you are involved with if you make a couple of personal changes. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Focus on children, friendship and the older people in your life. Money is heading your way from an unusual source. A sudden, unexpected change in one of your friendships will make you question and reevaluate how you're living your life. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): You'll have trouble curbing your emotions. Someone will cause a problem, leaving you in an awkward position. Don't give in to peer pressure or anyone trying to get something from you. Begin new partnerships. ✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): You need more time to assess a new relationship. Change made now may bring about a geographical change. Picking up a new skill will better your chance of getting a job of choice. Someone from your peer group will make a proposal. ✪✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Money will come from an unusual source and must be put toward your security. Someone from your past has not forgotten you. Don't be surprised by an emotional outburst from someone who thinks you owe him or her something. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Anger and upset will lead to an emotional outburst and a poor decision. Prepare to back away if someone tries to coerce you into something you don't want to do. A past acquaintance may cause problems for you. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Look for the right personal or professional partner by networking in areas that interest you. Don't spend unnecessary money on travel when a phone call or e-mail can have just as great an effect. Be money-smart and come out ahead. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Don't give anyone the opportunity to pick a fight. Keep busy, challenge yourself physically and mentally and avoid getting into trouble. Planning a pleasure trip will motivate you to work harder in order to pay for it. ✪✪✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Look into the finances, investments, medical issues, legalities or settlements that you need to put to rest. Being informed will be half the battle. Don't let your emotions be tampered with, leading to a poor choice. ✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): The more open and honest you are, the better the results will be so don't be too shy to spit out what's important to you. A change in professional direction will help you gain confidence and respect. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Go into anything that interests you with your eyes wide open. There are hidden matters that must be brought out into the open before you make a choice. Someone from your past will be able to bridge the gap. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are proud, outspoken and charismatic. You are imaginative, inventive and inspiring. You react quickly regarding emotional issues and, just as quickly, change your mind.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun,* ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations*

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

				3				
			7		5			
		1				4		
		3	2	1	4	9		
			3		6			
		7				6		
	9						5	
4								3
	2	6	5	9	8	7	4	

Difficulty Level ★★★ 8/20

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

7	6	4	1	5	2	3	9	8
8	5	9	7	3	4	6	2	1
2	3	1	6	9	8	4	7	5
5	9	6	4	7	1	8	3	2
3	4	8	9	2	5	7	1	6
1	7	2	3	8	6	5	4	9
9	2	7	5	6	3	1	8	4
6	1	3	8	4	9	2	5	7
4	8	5	2	1	7	9	6	3

Difficulty Level ★★ 8/19

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

ARTESIAN WELLS **Solution: 6 letters**

G	G	N	I	A	T	N	U	O	F	D	A	B	S	S
E	N	O	I	T	A	T	I	P	I	C	E	R	P	S
N	I	I	L	A	Y	E	R	U	C	G	A	O	R	E
E	N	T	G	I	A	T	L	E	R	I	N	S	I	L
R	N	A	U	G	M	F	L	U	N	T	S	B	N	P
A	U	V	S	A	I	E	S	E	A	F	U	A	G	M
T	R	E	H	H	R	D	S	N	M	P	O	G	R	U
I	R	L	S	A	R	T	E	T	W	W	R	R	O	P
N	E	E	T	I	Q	O	I	A	O	A	O	S	C	R
G	R	I	N	E	U	U	R	F	V	N	P	N	K	E
F	O	K	V	S	E	D	I	I	I	O	E	H	S	S
N	B	I	P	R	T	V	T	F	U	C	R	T	P	S
O	R	U	Ⓒ	Ⓛ	Ⓐ	Ⓨ	L	T	E	I	I	R	I	U
D	R	I	L	L	I	N	G	A	S	R	S	A	L	R
T	T	N	E	M	N	O	R	I	V	N	E	E	L	E

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Absorb, Acceleration, Aquifer, Artificial, Borer, Clay, Digging, Drilling, Drink, Drive, Earth, Elevation, Environment, Fluid, Force, Fountain, Fresh, Generating, Gravity, Gush, Layer, Limestone, Porous, Precipitation, Pressure, Pumpless, Rain, Rise, Rock, Running, Snowmelt, Spill, Spontaneous, Spout, Spring, Spurt, Surge, Upward, Valve

Yesterday's Answer: Energy

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235- NEWS

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• 5-Liner	**$35**
• 3-Liner with picture	**$45**
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Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

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Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

Source: Maddux returning to LA

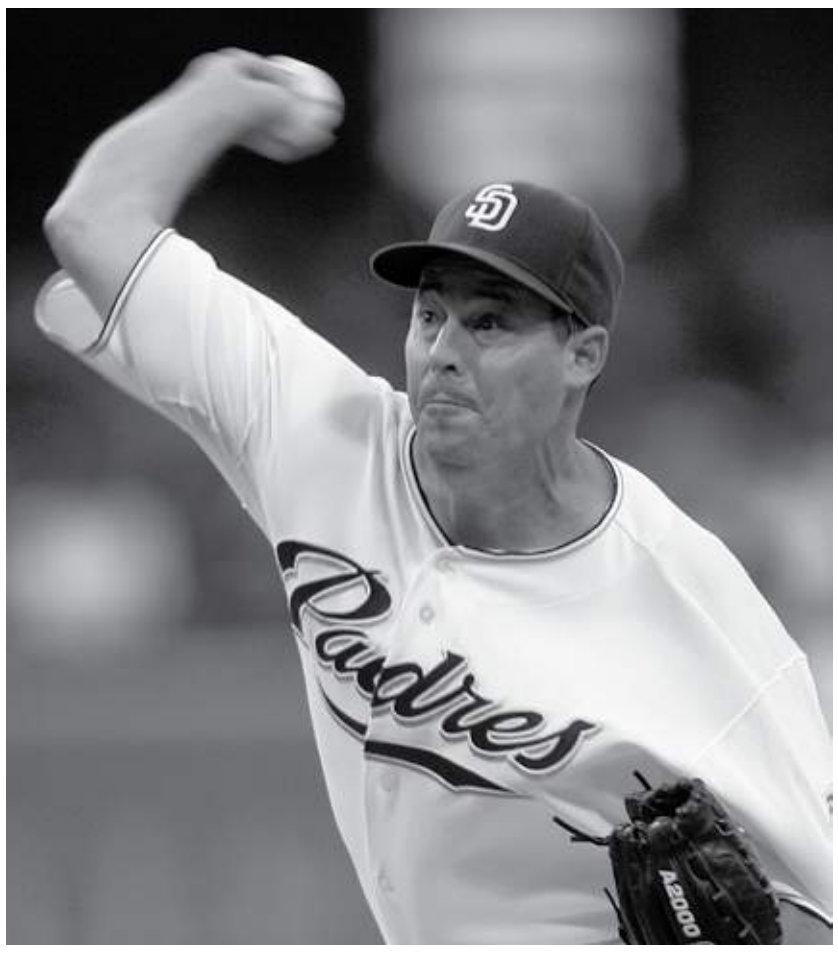
LOS ANGELES (AP)—Greg Maddux is headed back to the Los Angeles Dodgers.

San Diego and Los Angeles agreed to a trade that puts the 353-game winner in a pennant race again, according to a person familiar with the deal who spoke on condition of anonymity Monday night because no announcement had been made.

It was unclear what the last-place Padres would receive in return for the 42-year-old Maddux, who will join a Dodgers team tied with Arizona atop the NL West. The right-hander is 6-9 with a 3.99 ERA in 26 starts for San Diego this year.

Dodgers spokesman Josh Rawitch said Monday night that no deal had been completed.

The trade, first reported by the Los Angeles Times on its Web site, was expected to be announced Tuesday.



AP

San Diego Padres starter Greg Maddux pitches against the Philadelphia Phillies in the first inning of their baseball game Friday, Aug. 15, 2008, in San Diego.

Maddux was 6-3 with a 3.30 ERA in 12 starts for the Dodgers in 2006 after they acquired him from the Chicago Cubs for infielder Cesar Izturis at the non-waiver trade deadline. Maddux helped Los Angeles reach the playoffs that season as the NL wild card.

This year, the Dodgers and Padres discussed a deal for Maddux before the July 31 deadline, but talks fell through.

"I would say nothing ever got real close," Padres general manager Kevin Towers said then. "We let it be known with the Dodgers, that was the one ballclub he had interest in going to, that any deal we were going to do was going to be the best baseball deal we could do and it wasn't going to be a financial deal to try to move dollars. We just weren't happy with the prospect we would be getting back, and we chose to hold onto him."

A four-time Cy Young Award winner, Maddux has a full no-trade clause in his contract and agreed to waive it. He joined the Padres in 2007 and returned this season for a $10 million, one-year deal.

The Dodgers put opening-day starter Brad Penny on the disabled list Thursday with a shoulder injury and hope Maddux can fill the void in their rotation. He is likely to get seven or eight starts with Los Angeles down the stretch.

Penny could be out for the season, but his turn comes up again Saturday. Maddux pitched on Friday, allowing a run in seven innings of San Diego's 1-0 loss to 45-year-old Jamie Moyer and the Philadelphia Phillies.

It would be the latest aggressive move by general manager Ned Colletti and the Dodgers, who made a blockbuster deal for former Boston slugger Manny Ramirez at the trade deadline. Days before that, they acquired third baseman Casey Blake from Cleveland.

Now in his 23rd major league season, Maddux has won a record 17 Gold Gloves. He reached 13 wins last year for the 20th consecutive season, passing Cy Young for the major league record.

Maddux is ninth on baseball's career wins list, one behind Roger Clemens, and 10th in strikeouts with 3,353.

Maddux has a 3.14 career ERA and his record includes 223 losses in 737 major league appearances, all but four of those starts.

The Dodgers, slogging through much of the season under .500 but still managing to remain in contention in their weak division, have improved since the acquisitions of Ramirez and Blake. Los Angeles has won six of seven to boost its record to 64-60.

Floyd, Hinske homer to help first-place Tampa Bay beat MLB-best LA Angels

ST. PETERSBURG, Florida (AP)—Cliff Floyd and Eric Hinske hit two-run homers for Tampa Bay, helping Andy Sonnanstine earn his 13th win in a 6-4 victory over the Los Angeles Angels in the American League on Monday.

The Rays, first in the AL East, won for the eighth time in 10 games, holding off the team with Major League Baseball's best record despite another baserunning gaffe by B.J. Upton, who has been benched three times in the past two weeks for not hustling. The speedy center fielder was caught jogging on the bases again and thrown out at second on what should have been a routine double.

Sonnanstine (13-6) allowed three runs and five hits in 5 1-3 innings to pull within one victory of the Rays' single-season record. Rolando Arrojo won 14 in 1998.

Jon Garland (11-8) allowed five runs, four earned, and 10 hits in six innings for Los Angeles.

Red Sox 6, Orioles 3

At Baltimore, Jon Lester outpitched Jeremy Guthrie, and Jason Bay homered twice for Boston.

Lester (12-4) allowed one run, and four hits in seven innings to improve to 5-0 lifetime against Baltimore.

Jason Varitek also homered for the Red Sox.

Guthrie (10-9) gave up two runs and five hits in seven innings.

Aubrey Huff hit his 27th home run, drove in three runs and finished with two of Baltimore's five hits.

White Sox 13, Mariners 5

At Chicago, Nick Swisher hit a two-run home run and Orlando Cabrera started a six-run fifth inning with another two-run shot to help Chicago beat dismal Seattle.

After hitting a grand slam on Sunday, rookie Alexei Ramirez hit a three-run homer, Jermaine Dye doubled twice and drove in two runs, and Carlos Quentin hit his major league-leading 35th home run in the eighth for Chicago, who lead the majors with 182 homers. They hit four homers for the second straight game.

White Sox starter Mark Buehrle (11-10) survived a shaky performance. He allowed five runs and 11 hits in 5 2-3 innings.

Mariners starter Jarrod Washburn (5-13) allowed eight runs and seven hits in 4 1-3 innings.

Athletics 3, Twins 2

At Minneapolis, Kirk Saarloos pitched 3 2-3 shutout innings after Justin Duchscherer left with a hip injury and Oakland beat Minnesota.

Mark Ellis homered and Kurt Suzuki had two RBIs for Oakland, which got a nice effort from Saarloos (1-0) after he was called up from Triple-A Sacramento earlier in the day to bolster a struggling A's bullpen that was 1-5 over its last 18 games.

Duchscherer departed with right hip pain with two outs in the third and Oakland leading 1-0.

The loss snapped a four-game winning streak for Minnesota and wasted a good start from Blackburn (9-7). The rookie pitched eight innings, allowing six hits and three runs.

AP

Tampa Bay Rays' Eric Hinske, left, and teammate Cliff Floyd, right, head toward the dugout after Hinske's two-run home run that scored Floyd off a pitch from Texas Rangers' Kevin Millwood in the fifth inning of a Major League Baseball game, Friday, Aug. 15, 2008, in Arlington, Texas.

Tigers 8, Rangers 7

At Arlington, Texas, Gary Sheffield hit career homer No. 493, Curtis Granderson had two triples and four RBIs, and Detroit held on to beat Texas.

Sheffield hit a two-run drive in Detroit's four-run seventh for his 13th of the season, moving into a tie with Lou Gehrig and Fred McGriff for 25th on the career home run list. He finished with three hits and scored two runs.

The Tigers trailed 3-0 before the big seventh when Brandon Inge tied it with an RBI single off Frank Francisco (2-5) and Granderson's triple to right-center made it 4-3. They added four more in the eighth to make it 8-3. Granderson came up with bases loaded and hit a two-out triple to center.

Texas scored four runs in the bottom half. Pinch-hitter Frank Catalanotto had a two-run double, Joaquin Arias had a pinch run-scoring double and Michael Young drove in a run with a groundout.

Pirates 5, Mets 2

At Pittsburgh, Steve Pearce hit a tie-breaking single in the eighth inning for the Pittsburgh Pirates to beat New York and end the Mets' six-game winning streak.

Adam LaRoche homered and Jack Wilson hit a two-run double as the Pirates stopped a four-game losing skid.

Jerry Manuel was ejected for the fourth time as Mets manager for arguing after a double play in the third inning.

Mets starter John Maine pitched five scoreless innings and left with a 2-0 lead, but Paul Maholm pitched at least six innings for the 19th straight start, the longest streak by a Pirates pitcher since Doug Drabek in 1992.

Giants 5, Braves 0

At Atlanta, Barry Zito won for just the third time since the All-Star break, leading San Francisco over Atlanta.

Zito (7-15) allowed five hits in seven innings, and struck out three, combining with Keiichi Yabu and Sergio Romo on a seven-hitter. Zito pitched out of trouble, stranding two runners each in the third, fifth and seventh innings.

The major league leader in losses, Zito has won just 18 of 58 starts since signing a $126 million (€86 million), seven-year contract with San Francisco before the 2007 season.

San Francisco pitched its ninth shutout, one shy of the Los Angeles Dodgers, the NL leader. Aaron Rowand homered and drove in two runs for the Giants.

Brewers 9, Astros 3

At Milwaukee, CC Sabathia improved his perfect record with Milwaukee, pitching another complete game to beat Houston.

Sabathia also hit a two-run single in a five-run fourth inning. He is 8-0 with a 1.60 ERA and five complete games in nine starts for the Brewers since they acquired him from Cleveland in a July 7 trade.

Last year's AL Cy Young Award winner has won 11 straight decisions overall.

Sabathia threw 130 pitches. The big lefty struck out nine, walked two and gave up 11 hits.

Randy Wolf (2-1) took the loss, giving up six earned runs and five hits in four innings, his shortest outing in five starts since joining the Astros on July 22.

Bears name Orton as opening day starting QB

LAKE FOREST, Ill. (AP)—Kyle Orton was selected to be the Chicago Bears starting quarterback by coach Lovie Smith on Monday. Orton won the competition with Rex Grossman for the starting job.

Orton, the fourth-year player from Purdue, will start Thursday's third preseason game against the San Francisco 49ers and the Sept. 7 regular-season opener against the Indianapolis Colts.

"I think I've just continued to get better in the preseason—in the games and in practice—so this will be another step to take," Orton said.

Orton and Grossman began battling for the starting spot in May minicamp and the workouts in June. Then the competition intensified in training camp.

"To come to a decision like that we've taken a lot of things into consideration: Last year, how (Orton) finished the season ... training camp, preseason games," Smith said. "In the end, it comes down to a gut feeling that you have.

"I feel good about Kyle leading our team."

Orton completed 63.2 percent of his preseason passes (12-for-19) for 99 yards with a passer rating of 76.4, but had no completions longer than 17 yards. Grossman completed 13-for-23 for 118 yards. Grossman threw a 25-yard touchdown pass.

Orton did not get the team into the end zone, but did direct a two-minute drill to a field goal Saturday at Seattle. Grossman threw an interception.

Statistics alone didn't lead to the decision, Smith said.

"Completions, turnovers, to just the feeling we have on who can manage the game the best for us, all of things like that," Smith said. "And the good thing about evaluating both Rex and Kyle, we've had a long time to do it. It's been quite a few years we've had a chance to see both guys play."

Orton started 15 games as a rookie before starting the final three games last season. When Orton was a rookie, he ran an easier version of the offense. Now he's running the full offense.

"People make such a big deal about that, my rookie year and everything, but I think everybody on this team has gotten better since they were a rookie and not just me," Orton said. "That stuff's in the past and I'm just focused on playing good football now."

Orton's fourth year in the same offensive system under coordinator Ron Turner has helped improve his confidence.

"My accuracy has improved, my command of the offense has improved and just being able to play at a high level," he said.

Smith said the team's offensive line problems had little impact. The Bears had problems protecting the quarterback in Seattle.

"Both guys were in the same situation, which is a good part about it," he said. "Both guys played both preseason games with the same line. ... I think we did about what we could to let them compete fairly for the position."

The competition actually began last December when the team put Orton in the starter's role after Grossman suffered a knee sprain. Orton led the team to a 2-1 record with three touchdown passes and two interceptions.

Both players signed new deals after last season. Orton had one year left on a contract and it was extended one year, while Grossman's deal had expired and he signed on only for 2008.

The fact Grossman is signed on for only one season had little to do with the decision, coaches said.

"Never even came up, not at all," Turner said. "I wasn't even sure what the contract situation was, to be honest."

Grossman, who quarterbacked the team to the Super Bowl after the 2006 season and has 30 career starts, did not make himself available to the media after practice. Smith said Grossman expressed disappointment over the decision.

"No competitor will agree with a decision when it doesn't go their way," he said. "Rex is a team player. He's been in this situation before and he'll do whatever he needs to do to help our football team win."

Smith could not give Orton an iron-clad guarantee he will start all season.

"Nothing is over with any position," Smith said. "We don't name any guys starters for lifetime or anything like that. But we feel real good about Kyle, just like we feel good about Olin Kreutz being our center and Lance Briggs being our ... linebacker."

Teammates expressed relief to have the battle decided.

"It is kind of frustrating wondering who the starting quarterback is," wide receiver Devin Hester said. "That's probably one of the most important players on the team is the quarterback. Now that we've got it all resolved and we know who the starter is then now we can get down to business."

AP

An Aug. 7, 2008 file photo shows Chicago Bears quarterback Kyle Orton setting up to pass during a preseason NFL football game against the Kansas City Chiefs at Soldier Field in Chicago.

Pargo signs with Russian team

NEW YORK (AP)—New Orleans Hornets guard Jannero Pargo is the latest player to turn his back on the NBA for Europe.

Pargo signed a one-year deal with Dynamo Moscow of the Russian League, agent Mark Bartelstein told The Associated Press in a phone interview Friday.

The one-year deal is worth nearly $4 million and is about twice what Pargo made for the Hornets last season, Bartelstein said. Pargo joins a growing defection of NBA players lured overseas by higher salaries.

"Jannero's probably one of the higher profile players to go over," Bartelstein said.

Josh Childress began the exodus of role players in July when he spurned the Atlanta Hawks and signed a three-year deal with Greek club Olympiakos worth about $20 million after taxes. Earl Boykins, Carlos Arroyo, Nenad Krstic, Carlos Delfino and Jorge Garbajosa have since left the NBA for European teams.

Dynamo also signed Bostjan Nachbar, who averaged 9.8 points for the New Jersey Nets last season.

The 6-foot-1, 175-pound Pargo is a six-year NBA veteran out of Arkansas. He averaged 8.1 points and 18 minutes a game as a reserve for the Hornets last season, and was the team's fourth-leading scorer in the playoffs with 10.2 points per game.

New Orleans attempted to re-sign Pargo after he opted out of the final year of his contract in hopes of getting a more lucrative deal. Bartelstein said he had a handful of offers from the NBA, and the short length of the contract means the 28-year-old backup point guard has some future flexibility.

"We had a couple of interesting offers," Bartelstein said. "We just thought it was a great opportunity. He expects to do this for a year, take a deep breath and decide what to do next year. By no means does this mean we're saying goodbye to the NBA."

Pats' Brady unsure if he'll miss 3rd straight game

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. (AP)—Quarterback Tom Brady isn't sure if a foot injury will sideline him from the Patriots' third exhibition game Friday night after he sat out the first two.

The injury is on the same leg but different from the right ankle injury the quarterback suffered in last season's AFC championship game against San Diego, the NFL's reigning MVP said in a radio interview Monday.

"Just trying to be smart," Brady said on WEEI in Boston after skipping the trip to Tampa Bay for Sunday night's 27-10 loss to the Buccaneers. "The preseason is important, but I think the idea is to be ready for when the regular season kicks off."

He said he received treatment on his foot during the weekend but he's "not sure" if he'll play in Friday's home game against the Philadelphia Eagles. The Patriots finish the exhibition schedule against the New York Giants on Aug. 28.

"I'm doing good, doing good, just wishing I could have been out there last night," Brady said. "I'll try to get treatment this week. I'm feeling better every day."

Players were not available to the rest of the media on Monday, and coach Bill Belichick canceled a late afternoon conference call.

Brady didn't say when he was hurt but it wasn't during a practice on Aug. 2 when he pulled up after a play and missed some of the session, he said. That, he said, was caused by a kick in the left shin.

"Training camp is very physically demanding. There's some things that come up, whether it be a foot or an arm," Brady said. "It's just trying to be smart, trying to understand it's a long season and not going out there and aggravating something."

The Patriots open the regular season on Sept. 7 at home against the Kansas City Chiefs.

He hopes his injury responds quickly to treatment, "like it usually does."

Two weeks before last season's Super Bowl, a 17-14 loss to the Giants, Brady was photographed in New York wearing a protective boot on his ankle. During the regular season, he set an NFL record with 50 touchdown passes.

The other three quarterbacks on the Patriots roster have generated little offense or reason for optimism if they have to play during the regular season.

Matt Cassel, in his fourth season, second-year pro Matt Gutierrez and rookie third-round draft pick Kevin O'Connell struggled in the 16-15 loss to Baltimore in the exhibition opener.

Against Tampa Bay, Cassel started and played into the third quarter, completing six of 10 passes for 57 yards. O'Connell replaced him and went 6-for-15 for 61 yards and one interception. Gutierrez didn't play.

Belichick shed little light on when Brady might play.

Frodeno wins men's triathlon in sprint finish; top jumpers struggle to qualify

BEIJING (AP)—Jan Frodeno won a sprint finish in the men's triathlon Tuesday, overtaking Simon Whitfield in the final stretch to earn an Olympic gold medal.

Frodeno was in a pack of four at the end of the swim-bike-run event, but he pulled away to win by 5.19 seconds.

"I could hear the other guys breathing, and I sprinted and now I'm the Olympic winner," Frodeno said.

Usain Bolt, the Jamaican sprinter who set a world record in the 100 meters on Saturday, will again take to the track at the Bird's Nest on Tuesday in the semifinals of the 200.

The men's 200 final isn't scheduled until Wednesday, but there will still be 20 gold medals awarded Tuesday at the Beijing Games, including five in athletics.

The highlight will be the men's 1,500—despite the absence of world champion Bernard Lagat, who failed to qualify for the final.

Other golds were to be awarded sailing, wrestling, cycling, gymnastics, weightlifting, diving and equestrian.

Frodeno won the triathlon—a 1.5-kilometer swim, 40-kilometer bike ride and 10-kilometer run—in 1 hour, 48 minutes, 53.28 seconds.

"I knew the medal was safe, but I tried to get the gold. I kept thinking that this was the moment I've been dreaming of," Frodeno said.

Whitfield, the 2000 Sydney Games gold medalist from Canada, took silver and Bevan Docherty of New Zealand got bronze.

"I get to see the flag at least," Whitfield said.

Javier Gomez of Spain, the 2008 world champion, was also in the lead pack but finished fourth.

Paul Goodison earned Britain's third sailing gold medal of the games with an overall win in the men's Laser class dinghy. Vasilij Zbogar of Slovenia took silver and Diego Romero of Italy got bronze.

The qualifying round for the women's long jump at the Bird's Nest produced some shocks.

World indoor champion Naide Gomes of Portugal, five-time world indoor champion Tatyana Kotova and triple jump bronze medalist Hrysopiyi Devetzi of Greece were all eliminated.

"It's a shame. A final should be with the best ones," said Carolina Kluft of Sweden, who did advance.

Brittney Reese of the United States qualified first with a top jump of 6.87 meters, ahead of Maurren Higa Maggi of Brazil at 6.79.

Brazil, the top-ranked women's volleyball team in the world, easily defeated Japan 25-12, 25-20, 25-16 to advance to the semifinals, where it will face either China and Russia.

"I think we are playing good technically, physically and mentally," Brazil player Sheilla Castro said. "We are doing our best all around."

Cuba also advanced to the semifinals with a three-set victory over Serbia (26-24, 25-19, 26-24).

Blowout win for Corrections; PTI leads power outage-halted match

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Department of Corrections routed the Commonwealth Ports Authority, 96-65, while PTI was headed to a similar win, leading the Department of Public Works/Procurement & Supply, 78-63, in the second game in the Inaugural PTI Inter-Government/Business Basketball League when the power went off Monday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Corrections drew 20-plus points from two players to cruise to a 31-point triumph against a depleted CPA crew.

Luis Iguel led all scorers with 27 points, while Jeffrey Quitugua added 26, as the Corrections held CPA to seven points in the third period to turn a 46-42 halftime advantage to a 62-49 lead at the end of the third period.

Quitugua and Iguel fired up Correction's scoring in the first half, hitting 16 and 15 markers, respectively, while Gregorio Blas paced the team's breakaway in the third period. Blas made eight of his 13 points in the third quarter.

Iguel and Quitugua picked up where Blas left off in the fourth canto to hand CPA its third straight loss.

In the second game, PTI recovered from a slow start to lead DPW/P&S by 15 and boost its chances to claim win No. 9

PTI's bid to improve to a 9-1 record and bounce back from an 87-82 loss to NMC, had to wait another day when a power outage hit the gym with less than three minutes left in the match.

DPW/P&S controlled the game in the first half behind Edgar Pangelinan's triples. He made two triples in the first period, which ended with DPW ahead by five, 16-11. PTI played without scorers Elmer Esdrelon ad Ryan Sanciango in the first quarter.

Pangelinan added four triples in the second period to keep DPW in the driver's seat, 39-34.

But DPW collapsed in the third period, as Esdrelon and Sanciangco suited up for PTI and big men Kelvin Fitial and Edsel Mendoza began to dominate the paint.

At the end of the third period, PTI was already on top, 65-58 and led by as much as 15, before the game was suspended due to a power outage.

Fitial has scored 16 points for PTI, while Mendoza and Esdrelon tossed in 14 apiece. Sanciangco had contributed 11. Pangelinan was pacing DPW with 40 points when the match was called off. He has made 11 triples.

Corrections 96 – Iguel 27, Quitugua 26, Blas 13, Kwon 9, Itibus 6, Joab 6, Mendiola 5, Mendez 4.

CPA 65 – Camacho 20, Pedro 18, Tarkong 10, Borja 9, Choay 8.

Scoring by quarters: 26-21, 46-42, 62-49, 96-65.

FIVB coaching clinic starts today

FIVB official Tomas Santamaria arrived from Australia yesterday and will be here until next week to conduct the FIVB Coaches Course - Level 1 (How to Coach) clinic at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

Graduates of this program will earn an FIVB Level 1 Coaching Certificate—an invaluable asset towards the development of volleyball for both the CNMI as a whole and for the individuals who complete the course.

Currently there are 10 people participating in the Northern Mariana Islands Volleyball Association-organized clinic.

"We have room for up to 30 people. This clinic is open to volleyball players (at least 18 years of age) who have basic skills and knowledge of the game. If you have not completed your application and still wish to participate, please arrive at the MHS Gym by 2pm on Wednesday, Aug. 20. Course begins at 3pm and continues daily from 3pm to 10pm until Aug. 27 (including Saturday and Sunday)," said NMIVA president Laurie Peterka.

"We consider this an opportunity for phys-ed teachers and community programs developers to take advantage of a program right here in Saipan that would otherwise cost a couple-thousand dollars since you would have to find a program off-island and fly a person to that clinic or conference. We hope that schools and community-groups will recognize the value of sponsoring 1-2 individuals for a nominal fee," added NMIVA board member Russ Quinn.

Deposit for this course is $150 for non-NMIVA members or $130 for NMIVA members. Course fees include: coaching workbook, videos and handouts, equipment for training, T-shirts, facilities' and a graduation-banquet at Pacific Islands Club.

"We are doing everything we can to help facilitate participation and provide access to everyone who is interested in this clinic. This is not a fundraising event. Fees are strictly being used to facilitate this event. We've managed to keep costs down so it looks like we will be able to offer successful graduates a rebate of approximately 75 percent of the original deposit," said Peterka.

NMIVA was graciously selected to participate in a Federation International de Volleyball under-privileged countries program. The Volleyball Cooperation Programme is part of Volleyball World Vision 2012. We were selected for the FIVB Coaches Course - Level 1 (How to Coach) community development program. The program will focus on indoor volleyball coaching practices, theories, and techniques.

If you have any questions or are looking for additional information, please contact Laurie Peterka at 483-7499 or laurie.peterka@saipan.com or Russ Quinn 287-0318 or at saipanruss@yahoo.com. ***(NMIVA)***

SOUTHERN

From Page 28

as three points, 59-62, in the last two minutes of the match. But last-second lapses on defense and missed treys doomed the Junior Nationals.

Aguon's wards were successful in pressuring Sonics' players from the top of the key. But just when the 24-shot clock was about to expire, the Junior Nationals left one man open for an easy shot.

Hocog capitalized on the Junior Nationals' defensive lapses, scoring four straight points via two inside baskets from the left wing, giving the Sonics a 66-63 lead, with 49 seconds remaining on the clock.

In the Sonics' next offensive set, it was Bryan Ajoste's turn to nail a basket from the left wing, receiving a drop pass from Hocog.

The Junior Nationals then scored only a free throw in the last 40 seconds of the match, missing all three attempts from downtown. Rabauliman split his charities, Cruz muffed two triples, and White's heave from beyond the arc did not even hit the rim, as the Junior Nationals lost in their season debut.

Sonics 71 – M. Ajoste 19, B. Ajoste 15, Hocog 10, Soria 7, Chan 5, Ecalnea 5, Dela Cruz 4, Salas 2, Catap 2.

Jr. Nationals 64 – Cruz 20, Rabauliman 20, White 10, Moses 9, Castro 3.

Scoring by halves: 31-31, 71-64.

Referees: Connie Camacho and Eric Artillaga.

SML

From Page 28

Rock Steady has a strong chance to even the series and force a deciding Game 5, as it was leading Game 4, 8-3, at the top of the ninth inning when the power went off.

The Rangers and Rock Steady somewhat played two games in one night as the continuation of Game 3 was also played Monday night with the match going into an extra inning.

Game 3 was first played Sunday, but after Rock Steady tied he match at 6-all at the top of the ninth, the power went off and organizers decided to suspend the game.

The Rangers finally took Game 3 Monday night and moved a win away from securing the championship with shortstop Jesus Iguel leading the victory after making a two-run single at the top of the 10th inning.

Twenty-minutes after Game 3 concluded, Game 4 started with Rock Steady still showing a lot of fight in them, controlling the game from the start, to boost its bid to extend the series.

The last inning of Game 4 will start at 6:30pm this Friday and if Rock Steady wins and there will be no power outage, Game 5 will be played on the same night.

An awards ceremony will follow shortly with organizers giving individual and team trophies to the top performers in the regular season and in the finals.

"We are hoping there will be no power outage this Friday so we can wrap up everything and the players can rest after playing successive games," said SML coordinator Tony Rogolifoi.

US

From Page 28

bition victory in Shanghai two weeks ago over an Australian team that didn't have starting center Andrew Bogut of the Milwaukee Bucks. He was resting a sore right ankle.

It's hard to imagine a repeat of that semi-Shanghai surprise with the way the U.S. has played in Beijing.

Dwight Howard scored 22 points and LeBron James had 18, 16 in the first half, Monday as the United States completed an undefeated march through pool play.

Not since the Dream Team rumbled through Las Ramblas 16 years ago in Barcelona has a team been this dominant. The Americans won their pool games by 32.2 points and averaged 103 points.

The only thing they might have to work on is Kobe Bryant's dunking. He blew two Monday, but hit three 3-pointers after going only 5-of-24 in the first four games.

Bryant finished with 13 points as the Americans shot 55 percent from the floor and tossed in 11 more 3-pointers after making 12 in their last game.

With the top seed in their group already clinched, the Americans could have come out flat like Lithuania, which entered Monday as the other unbeaten and was trounced 106-75 by Australia.

Instead, they came out and flattened Germany.

The Americans scored 3 seconds into the game when Howard batted the tip to James, who threw it ahead to Carmelo Anthony for a layup. That was the start of eight straight U.S. points, and the end of any suspense.

Germany missed nine of its first 10 shots, including a blown dunk and a botched putback by Los Angeles Clippers center Chris Kaman. Bryant missed a dunk, too, during that stretch, but Howard and James had consecutive slams to make it 18-3.

The Americans were scoring so easily, they practically got in each other's way. Chris Paul led a 3-on-1 break and threw an alley-oop that could have gone to either James or Dwyane Wade. James jumped higher and got it to lay it in, then stepped outside to hit his second 3 for a 23-5 bulge.

Up 19 after one, the U.S. scored the first eight points of the second to make it 39-12. The lead was 28 after James drilled 3-pointers on consecutive U.S. possessions, and ballooned to 30 for the first time when Howard scored four straight to make it 49-19 with 3 minutes left in the half.

Bryant hit the side of the rim on another slam attempt early in the third quarter, so he backed up 20 feet and tossed in back-to-back 3s for a 62-29 cushion. Howard slammed down an alley-oop from Wade right after Nowitzki checked out, turning into an 80-39 bulge with 2:41 remaining in the period.

JONES

From Page 28

Minor defeated teammate Dina Jones in the morning match on Day 2, 6-2, 6-1, but failed to earn back-to-back wins that could boost her semis chances after losing to American Samoa's Leilani Duchnak, 2-6, 4-6.

Dina Jones joined Minor in the showers after dropping her fourth straight game, bowing to Losana Vosa, 2-6, 4-6.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Tampa Bay	76	48	.613	–
Boston	72	53	.576	4 1/2
New York	66	58	.532	10
Toronto	64	60	.516	12
Baltimore	60	64	.484	16

Central Division

Chicago	71	53	.573	–
Minnesota	70	54	.565	1
Detroit	61	64	.488	10 1/2
Cleveland	56	67	.455	14 1/2
Kansas City	55	69	.444	16

West Division

Los Angeles	76	47	.618	–
Texas	62	64	.492	15 1/2
Oakland	57	67	.460	19 1/2
Seattle	46	78	.371	30 1/2

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

New York	68	57	.544	–
Philadelphia	66	58	.532	1 1/2
Florida	64	61	.512	4
Atlanta	56	69	.448	12
Washington	44	81	.352	24

Central Division

Chicago	76	48	.613	–
Milwaukee	72	54	.571	5
St. Louis	70	57	.551	7 1/2
Houston	63	62	.504	13 1/2
Pittsburgh	56	69	.448	20 1/2
Cincinnati	55	70	.440	21 1/2

West Division

Arizona	64	60	.516	–
Los Angeles	64	60	.516	–
Colorado	57	69	.452	8
San Francisco	53	71	.427	11
San Diego	48	76	.387	16

Yesterday's Games

Pittsburgh 5, N.Y. Mets 2
San Francisco 5, Atlanta 0
Milwaukee 9, Houston 3
Boston 6, Baltimore 3
Tampa Bay 6, L.A. Angels 4
Detroit 8, Texas 7
Oakland 3, Minnesota 2
Chicago White Sox 13, Seattle 5

2008 BEIJING OLYMPICS

Medal Count

	G	S	B	Total
United States	23	24	26	73
China	39	14	15	68
Russia	8	13	15	36
Australia	11	10	12	33
Britain	13	7	8	28
France	4	11	13	28
Germany	10	7	7	24
South Korea	8	9	6	23
Japan	8	5	7	20
Italy	6	6	7	19
Ukraine	5	3	8	16
Netherlands	3	5	4	12
Cuba	1	5	5	11
Belarus	1	3	7	11
Canada	2	4	4	10
Romania	4	1	3	8
Spain	3	3	2	8
Kazakhstan	1	3	4	8
Poland	3	3	1	7
Kenya	2	3	2	7
New Zealand	2	1	4	7
Denmark	2	1	3	6
North Korea	2	1	3	6
Brazil	1	0	5	6
Czech Republic	2	3	0	5
Switzerland	2	0	3	5
Azerbaijan	1	2	2	5
Norway	1	2	2	5
Slovenia	1	2	2	5
Indonesia	1	1	3	5
Hungary	0	4	1	5
Armenia	0	0	5	5
Slovakia	3	1	0	4
Jamaica	2	2	0	4
Zimbabwe	1	3	0	4
Ethiopia	2	1	0	3
Georgia	2	0	1	3
Bulgaria	1	1	1	3
Finland	1	1	1	3
Sweden	0	3	0	3
Turkey	0	2	1	3
Austria	0	1	2	3
Greece	0	1	2	3
Uzbekistan	0	1	2	3
Mongolia	1	1	0	2
Algeria	0	1	1	2
Colombia	0	1	1	2
Croatia	0	1	1	2
Kyrgyzstan	0	1	1	2
Lithuania	0	1	1	2
Serbia	0	1	1	2
Chinese Taipei	0	0	2	2
Cameroon	1	0	0	1
India	1	0	0	1
Panama	1	0	0	1
Thailand	1	0	0	1
Tunisia	1	0	0	1
Chile	0	1	0	1
Ecuador	0	1	0	1
Estonia	0	1	0	1
Malaysia	0	1	0	1
Portugal	0	1	0	1
Singapore	0	1	0	1
South Africa	0	1	0	1
Trinidad and Tobago	0	1	0	1
Vietnam	0	1	0	1
Argentina	0	0	1	1
Egypt	0	0	1	1
Mexico	0	0	1	1
Morocco	0	0	1	1
Tajikistan	0	0	1	1
Togo	0	0	1	1

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Aughenbaughs return from Palau vacation

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Above, Team Ngardmau after beating Aimeliik, 12-2, at Asahi Field.

Left, the Ngardmau Girls Volleyball Team playing Aimeliik.

Palau

Saipan's Aughenbaugh siblings—Elijah, Charity, and Kevin—recently returned from a summer to remember after taking part in the first-ever Palau 18-under games while vacationing in their mother's home island.

The Inaugural Belau 18-and-Under Youth Games ran from July 14 through 19 on Babeldaob Island in Ngardmau State, Palau.

According to Aughenbaugh patriarch, Keith, their Palau vacation was a wonderful experience for all 11 members of the family who traveled to Ngardmau State this summer as they were able to watch various sporting events in Koror with fellow relatives and village residents.

"For the siblings—Elijah, Charity, and Kevin—to represent their grandmother Mechelins' (Kumangai) village of Ngardmau in the Games and be teammates with various cousins was something special they will remember for years to come," he said in an email to the *Saipan Tribune*.

He added that Inaugural Belau 18-and-Under Youth Games was an excellent preview to the 2010 Micronesian Games in two years when athletes from the island-nations of the region will congregate in Palau once again.

As far as the competition went, Charity Aughenbaugh's volleyball team ended up with the bronze medal, while Eli Aughenbaugh's baseball team lost in the semifinals and then in the consolation game to take fourth place in baseball.

The elder Aughenbaugh said five games in five days took its toll on the baseball players. On a bright note, Eli Aughenbaugh wound up going 11-for-19 at the plate.

Meanwhile, Kevin Aughenbaugh unfortunately was ill the day of the 800m and could not compete.

"But all in all, it was a real special experience for all three of them to compete with relatives from the village in Ngardmau State (with the tallest waterfall and highest mountain in Palau). There are only a couple hundred people living in the village; a very close knit community," said Keith Aughenbaugh.

Teams representing the states of Ngardmau, Anguar, Pelilieu, Aimeliik, Ngwail, and Sonsorol participated in the weeklong event in track and field, baseball, volleyball, basketball, and paddling.

Elijah Aughenbaugh batted 11-for-19 for Ngardmau, which finished in 4th place.

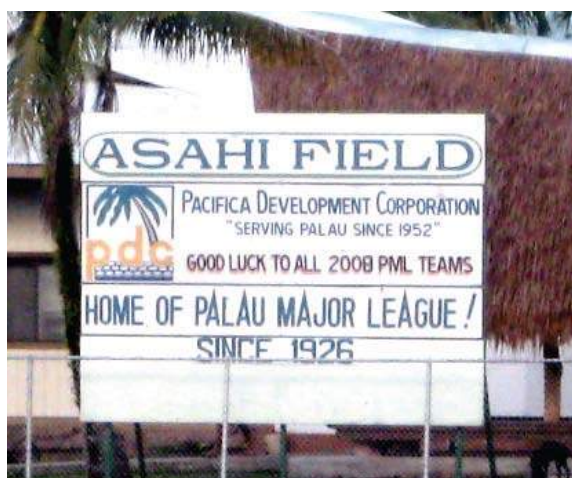
The Palau Track and Field.

Elijah Aughenbaugh pitches for Ngardmau State.

Above, Charity Aughenbaugh, third from left, with Ngardmau Girls Volleyball Team, which won the bronze medal.

Above right, Elijah with brother Kelmer, second from left, and cousins from the Ngardmau State Baseball Team.

Right, Ngardmau State got the overall bronze medal in the Games.



Asahi Field in Koror, home of Palau baseball.

Aughenbaughs return from Palau experience

Saipan's Aughenbaugh siblings–Elijah, Charity, and Kevin–recently returned from a summer to remember after taking part the first-ever Palau 18-under games while vacationing in their mother's home island.

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Source: Maddux returning to LA

Greg Maddux is headed back to the Los Angeles Dodgers. San Diego and Los Angeles agreed to a trade that puts the 353-game winner in a pennant race again.

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Southern Sonics get early revenge over Jr. Nationals

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Southern Sonics' Manuel Ajoste, 13, drives against the CNMI Junior Nationals' Allen Moses, during the opening game in the 2008 Saipan Rotary Club Youth Basketball League Monday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The early rematch of last year's finals had the Southern Sonics avenging their loss to the CNMI Junior Nationals as the former nailed a 71-64 victory on the opening day of the 2008 Saipan Rotary Club Youth Basketball League Monday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The Junior Nationals ruled the 18-and-under tournament last year, beating the Sonics in the finals, 98-91. But they started their title-defense bid on a bitter note with the team's stalwarts failing to get support from the newcomers.

The defending champions lost several key players from last year's roster, leaving Jericho Cruz and Marvin Rabauliman to take charge for the Junior Nationals. The duo had their usual numbers against the Sonics, scoring 20 markers apiece, while Allen Moses chipped in nine.

Besides Rabauliman, Cruz and Moses, only two others scored for the Junior Nationals with Joseph White contributing 10 and Jose Castro adding three. The defending champions had only seven players suiting up for their opening game.

The Sonics also lost key players this season and have a rookie-laden lineup. But coach Jesse Tudela got a lift from his new recruits, who came from the Junior Sonics squad, to outclass the Junior Nationals.

Five Sonics players combined for 31 points, providing support to siblings Manuel and Bryan Ajoste, who were the top two scorers for the team with 19 and 15 markers, respectively.

Augustine Hocog chipped in 10, six in the second half, including uncontested back-to-back baskets from the left wing in the last two minutes of the game, helping the Sonics maintain their distance with the Junior Nationals.

The match was close from start to finish with halftime ending in a deadlock, 31-all.

The Sonics took the lead midway in the second half, as Manuel Ajoste continued to hit his outside shots and Hocog found his mark.

The Junior Nationals had several chances to win the game, as they cut the lead to as low

See SOUTHERN on Page 26

SML finals to be decided on Friday, if power permits

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Rock Steady's John Mafnas pitches in Game 3 of the best-of-five series in the 208 Budweiser Saipan Major League baseball tournament at the Francisco "Tan Ko" M. Palacios Baseball Field Sunday.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Organizers and players in the 2008 Budweiser Saipan Major League baseball tournament are keeping their fingers crossed that the finals series between pennant champion Rock Steady and Ford Rangers will be finished this Friday.

The best-of-five series started Aug. 11, but a week already past and the finals has yet to concluded.

The Joeten Motors-sponsored Ford Rangers are leading the series, 2-1, after winning Games 1, 15-10, and Game 3, 9-6.

Rock Steady prevailed in the twice-suspended Game 2 via forfeiture, as only eight Rangers sluggers showed up for the match.

Game 4 was played Monday night, but was suspended due a power outage at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

See SML on Page 26

US completes romp through pool play; Australia is next

BEIJING (AP)— The U.S. Olympic team put away Dirk Nowitzki and Germany in a hurry. Next up: the only team so far these Americans couldn't blow out. After destroying Germany 106-57 on Monday, the Americans (5-0) move on to a quarterfinal matchup Wednesday against Australia, the team that's provided them with their toughest test in China.

The U.S. led by only seven points midway through the fourth quarter of an 87-76 exhi-

See US on Page 26

AP
USA's Dwight Howard, left, shoots over Germany's Chris Kaman during a men's basketball game at the Beijing 2008 Olympics in Beijing, Monday, Aug. 18, 2008.

RELATED NEWS
Frodeno wins men's triathlon in sprint finish; top jumpers struggle to qualify.
PAGE 26

Jones, Miller enter Oceania Plate semifinals

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

CNMI's Christian Miller and Rafael Jones are still unbeaten as the ITF Oceania Plate tennis tournament entered its second day at the Robin Mitchell Regional Tennis Centre in Lautoka, Fiji.

Miller duplicated his performance on Day 1, downing two foes to secure the No. 1 slot in Pool A and automatically advanced to the semifinals. He tripped Devrath Narayan of Fiji, 6-2, 6-1, and kept his clean record following a 6-4, 6-0, win over Robin Morove of Papua New Guinea.

The 16-year-old member of the CNMI Junior Tennis Team was playing his last pool game yesterday against Kiribati' Bataua Matang. Even if Miller loses that match, he will still keep the top rank in Pool A, as he had already defeated the second placer Morove (3-1).

The semifinals were played yesterday with Miller set to face either teammate Jones or Khatri.

Jones had a similar 4-0 record after Monday's matches, tying Devin Khatri of Fiji for the lead in Pool B. The 13-year-old Jones prevailed over Alex Beddoes of the Cook Islands, 6-4, 6-3, and completed a Day 2 sweep after topping American Samoa's Christian Duchnak, 6-3, 6-1.

A Jones win over Khatri yesterday morning would give him the No. 1 spot in Pool B and prevent an all-CNMI semis duel in the Junior Boys division.

Tournament format allow the top two players in each pool to advance to the cross-over semifinals with the No. 1 player in Pool A meeting the No. 2 player in Pool B for the first finals ticket and Pool B's top placer dueling Pool A's second finisher for the other championship berth.

The two other CNMI bets in the Oceania Plate tournament are out of contention.

Thea Minor split her games anew to bow out of competition in the senior girls division.

See JONES on Page 26